PMA class of Ping, Gringo vows support for GMA

Story on PAGE A2

With 11 queens, it's nice to be king

HIRAP MAGING HARI! KAILANGAN PUMILI...

LUDZIDZINI ROYAL VILLAGE, Swaziland—It pays to be king here.

Tens of thousands of bare-breasted young maidens danced in front of King Mswati III on Fri-

WITH/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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IN *today's issue*

- **53rd Palanca awardees for literature**
  Sunday Inquirer Magazine
- **Accidental heroes**
  LIFESTYLE /J1
- **Job Market**
  SECTION K

Cory: Protect democracy

GMA orders probe of link of crime rash to coup talk

By Dona Pazzibugan and Cynthia Balana

FORMER President Corazon Aquino called on Filipinos yesterday to commit themselves, at a time when the country is reeling from new rumors of a coup d'état, to "protect democracy"—even as President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered an investigation into possible links between a recent rash of spectacular crimes and alleged plots against her administration.

Aquino, who faced at least seven coup attempts during her term, praised civil society groups gathered at La Salle Greenhills yesterday for acting to counter destabilization attempts.

"We have to make a firm commitment to do the best we can to preserve and protect our democracy," Aquino said.

In her weekly radio address, the President said she had "ordered a deep investigation into crimes like (car theft) and bank robbery to see if they may be related to the destabilization plots of certain people ... who have turned against the law."

Ms Macapagal did not name any suspects engaged in crimes or antigovernment plots. The most shocking of the crimes was the daylight robbery at the Citibank headquarters in Makati City on Aug. 25.

Civic groups have warned that the crimes may be intended to raise funds to bankroll the political campaigns of some candidates running in the May 2004 national elections.

The President said she will not allow those behind the rash in criminal activities to take advantage of the ensuing confusion. She insisted, however, that

CORY/ A17

GREEN DELIGHTS
President Macapagal-Arroyo wades in and admires the merchandise during a visit to the Carmona Organic Farm in Cavite.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Ping's flight not good for Pidal probe—Pimentel

By Volt Contreras and Michael Lim Ubac

IF Sen. Panfilo Lacson fails to make it to the resumption of the "Jose Pidal" hearings at the Senate tomorrow, the public may view his absence as a sign that "he's no longer as interested as we are in finding out the truth," a colleague of his in the opposition said yesterday.

"It will not look good if he will leave it to the opposition to take up the cudgels for him. He should take the challenge personally," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said at the weekly Sulo Hotel media forum in Quezon City.

Asked of the difficulties that the oppositionists would face if the hearings were resumed without Lacson, Pimentel said: "Our problem is that we don't know where he is coming from."

But a lawyer for Lacson told the INQUIRER that the senator was not backing down from his charges of corruption and money laundering against President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband.

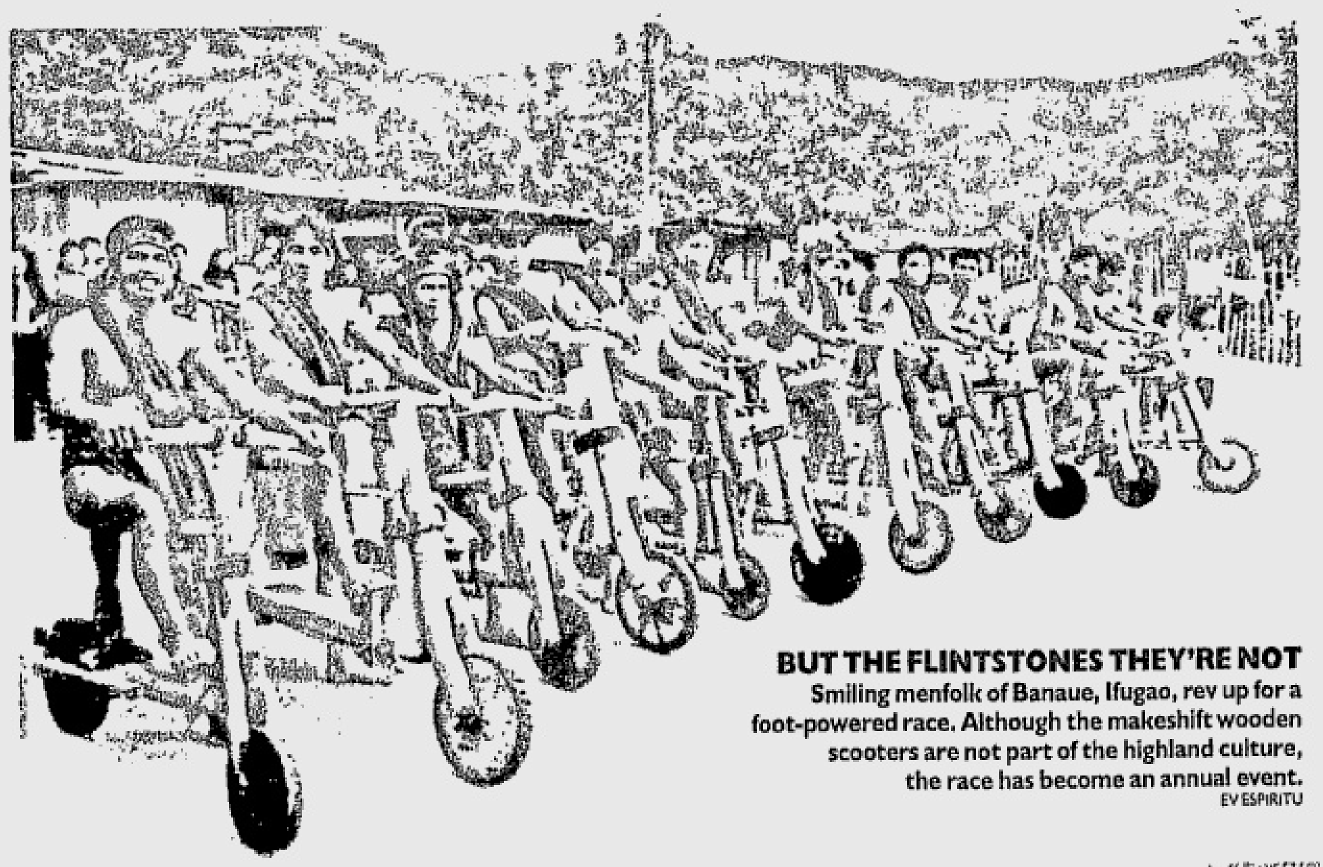
"I don't know where Senator Pimentel is coming from. I don't know why he is saying that," said Sigrid Fortun, who was reached by mobile phone yesterday in Denmark.

Fortun said that Lacson had not chickened out and that his trip to Sydney in Australia had nothing to do with the controversy sparked by his Jose Pidal exposé.

"I don't think he has lost interest," Fortun said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon confirmed the other day that Lacson would not be present at the resumption of the in-

PING'S/ A18



BUT THE FLINTSTONES THEY'RE NOT
Smiling menfolk of Banaue, Ifugao, rev up for a foot-powered race. Although the makeshift wooden scooters are not part of the highland culture, the race has become an annual event.
EV ESPIRITU

In times of empty noise, bishop calls for silence

By Martin P. Marfil

BLAMING both politicians and the media for what he called "noise that is empty," an influential Catholic bishop yesterday called for a stop to the bickering and endless accusations being aired and printed almost daily.

In his homily at a Mass attended by members of multi-sectoral groups, Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas of Manila said Filipinos today are suffering from what he described as the "debilitating noise of abused freedom."

To counter this, Villegas yesterday initiated a "campaign for silence."

"Every day, voices are rising with increasing hysteria ... Politicians bicker about this or that, grabbing microphones, to babble and grumble, oftentimes incoherently, throwing accusations against one another," said Villegas, who is also the rector of the Edsa Shrine and a close aide of Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"Protest groups find fault with everything. The media no longer sift the grain from the chaff, or worse, seek the chaff and give it its 15 minutes of glory, making noise even in print," he added.

This, the bishop said, is the kind of noise that is empty, which wearies the spirit.

IN TIMES/ A17

Little Manila: Where Pinoy immigrant saga started

By Percy D. Della
Correspondent

STOCKTON, California—A local film made by the son of a *manong* (Filipino oldtimer), a national television show and a slew of articles in major newspaper articles have made a case for its preservation to no avail.

This city's Little Manila, where the Filipino immigrant saga in North America began, is facing death by wrecking ball.

Little Manila, or what's left of it on Lafayette and Hunter streets in downtown Stockton, is in danger of being leveled completely to give way to an Asian-themed suburban mall and parking lot.

Bureaucrats, planners and developers view the three remaining Little Manila landmarks as eyesores on the city's landscape.

A foundation led by a Stockton-born, third-generation Filipino-American sees them as an essential part of the Filipino immigrant story in North America.

Before Los Angeles and San Francisco, Stockton was home to the largest Filipino community outside of the Philippines for at least half a century.

LITTLE/ A18

Tribal kids produce own TV show

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BONTOC, Mt. Province—For the first time, indigenous youth are voicing their perspectives on life concerns and telling their own stories on national television.

And the approach is hands-on: They themselves are choosing the topics, shooting the pictures, recording the sound, conducting the interviews and writing the scripts for the 30-minute TV program called "KNN: Kabataan News Network."

Of particular concern to the youth of the Cordillera is tribal conflict, a subject that Lycha Kiniway, 16, of the Mt. Province General Comprehensive High School, has been documenting and whose effects on children she wants "to show [to the world]."

To promote a culture sensitive to children's rights, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) selected 30 young people in the Philippines for training in video production and child rights advocacy. Those selected include Kiniway; Juan Jose David, 16; Karen Wendy Brett, 15; Ayree Lacbawan, 14; and Alejo Ter-

TRIBAL/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/09/07/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy With Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Class of Ping, Gringo vows to back GMA

By Cynthia D. Balana

MEMBERS of the most controversial class in the history of the Philippine Military Academy expressed their full support for the President and her administration late Friday night, and pledged to help stop any attempt to topple the government.

Graduates of the PMA Class of 1971 conveyed their support during a two-hour dinner President Macapagal-Arroyo hosted in Malacañang.

Ms Macapagal described the dinner as a cordial gathering of 44 officers led by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, who engaged the President in a discussion of police and military matters. But according to Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, the two most controversial members of the class, Senators Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan, were not present.

Bunye said the dinner was part of the President's efforts to interact with various sectors of the military.

The members of the class were accompanied by Marciano Paynor, consul general to Los Angeles, who is also a member of Class '71.

Among the topics the officers took up with the President were the reform programs being undertaken by the AFP and the Philippine National Police, such as housing and the increase in the take-home pay of soldiers and policemen.

The President thanked the group for their support for her administration and for various programs of the government.

Others present included the class president, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the AFP comptroller; PNP Deputy Directors General Edgardo Aglipay, Virtus Gil and Reynaldo Velasco; PNP Community Relations chief Director Ricardo de Leon; Maj. Gen. Cirilo Castillo of the Philippine Air Force; Admiral Ariston de los Reyes of the Navy; Army Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Rivera; and lawyer Jess Paredes, who represented the business sector.

No need

Bunye said he thought the presence of Lacson and Honasan was not necessary, saying other members of the class might have felt uncomfortable if the two opposition senators had shown up.

The two have been accused by Malacañang of spearheading the destabilization campaign to topple the government.

Honasan has been charged with coup d'état, for allegedly masterminding the Oakwood rebellion last July 27, while Lacson has been accused by First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo of abusing his parliamentary immunity to malign him and impugn the President's integrity.

Lacson has accused Arroyo of corruption, maintaining the controversial "Jose Pidal" bank account by using a fictitious name, and engaging in an illicit affair with his finance officer, Vicky Toh.

OFFICER and cadet in male bonding at the recognition ceremony for Philippine Military Academy Class of 2007.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Nothing wrong with PMA, Navy chief tells cadets

By Desiree Caluza
and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A top-ranking military officer yesterday told cadets of the Philippine Military Academy their institution was not to blame for the July 27 mutiny.

"I will say without exception that there is nothing wrong with the Philippine Military Academy," said Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon, flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy, "there is nothing wrong with the training and education of PMA cadets."

The Makati City mutiny had mostly been led by members of the PMA Marilag Class of 1995.

De Leon said there was nothing wrong with the PMA's training methods and curriculum and dismissed criticisms that the institution was breeding "misguided heroes."

"Those misguided participants in Oakwood are but a trickle compared to the larger body of PMAyers serving our God, country and people with unqualified fervor and honor," De Leon told some 318 plebes (first-year cadets) and about 650 senior cadets.

De Leon was guest during recognition rites for members of the Maragtas Class of 2007.

"The question is, what kind of leaders are we producing within the hallowed grounds of the academy? Will the ideals that this institution is founded upon be at the forefront when crossroads are faced by these cadets?" he asked.

Parents too

Army Lt. Col. Odelon Fruto, whose son Paul is a member of Maragtas class, said the cadets' parents were hoping that their children's idealism will not push them to rebel against the government, like the Oakwood mutineers.

"As parents, we are expecting our children to develop their loyalty not to the person who runs (the government) but to the institution (that he or she represents)," Fruto told the INQUIRER.

Although he supports the PMA's curriculum and recognizes its imperfections, Fruto said he is hoping that cadets will be given more time for social and community exposure so they will learn more about the people they are serving.

De Leon, citing his more than 30 years in military service, reminded the cadets that a soldier's broken spirit was worse than the wounds of battle.

Authority misused

De Leon said the July 27 mutiny disregarded "service with honor" when the soldiers misused the authority entrusted to them by the Filipino people.

"As leaders, you will realize that it takes a huge amount of moral courage to face a wrong by putting things in perspective through the use of the chain of command in order to bring forward (those) issues that need to be addressed in the proper forum," said De Leon.

De Leon admonished Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and other leaders of the Oakwood mutiny for failing to serve the country with honor.

"For decades now, young men like you stood right here on these same grounds with the same purpose that all of us are constantly seeking to accomplish—to serve with honor," he said.

Respect for the chain of command, he said, would have prevented the Oakwood incident.

Gov't intensifies drive vs drugs

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a more intensified campaign against illegal drugs as she reported significant headway in the government's battle against drug syndicates.

In her weekly radio message, the President said three international leaders of international drug syndicates have been arrested and at least four clandestine laboratories were discovered in Cavite and Metro Manila.

The positive development in the campaign to curb illegal drugs was contained in the report of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOT) which was submitted to her office by the DILG and the PNP.

The task force identified the suspected drug lords as Jackson Dy, Benito Sy and Zhang Shang Ming while the shabu plants were found in Tanza, Silang and Carmona in Cavite and in Fairview, Quezon City. Six warehouses and storage facilities for shabu-finished products and chemicals used in its manufacture were also discovered by the task force in Pasay City, Las Piñas and Parañaque City. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Court wont stop collection of new cigarette taxes

A MAKATI court has rejected the bid by a foreign cigarette importer to stop the collection of higher excise taxes on new cigarette brands.

The higher taxes were earlier set by the Bureau of Internal Revenue Regulation 22-2003, which took effect on Sept. 1.

With the ruling of Judge Romeo Barza of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 61, the British American Tobacco (Philippines), Inc. will now have to pay P13.44—or P4.48 more—for each pack of Lucky Strike Filters, Lucky Strike Lights and Lucky Strike Menthol Lights sold.

Prior to reclassification, BAT paid only P8.96 in taxes per pack of 20s.

In his two-page order dated Sept. 4, 2003, denying BAT's plea for a temporary restraining order, Barza said: "To restrain the collection of taxes is expressly prohibited by law."

BAT had protested the collection of higher taxes, saying this would force the company to raise prices, and therefore "cause grave and irreparable injury."

Named respondents in BAT's petition were Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno.

In April 2003, the Department of Finance and the BIR, seeking to boost revenue collections, conducted a survey to determine the correct excise tax classification of cigarette brands introduced in the market after the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program took effect on January 1, 1997.

The survey ascertained that 30 cigarette brands, including those listed under BAT and La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co., were paying excise taxes applied to a lower category. As a corrective measure, the BIR recommended to the DOF that higher taxes be collected on the new brands.

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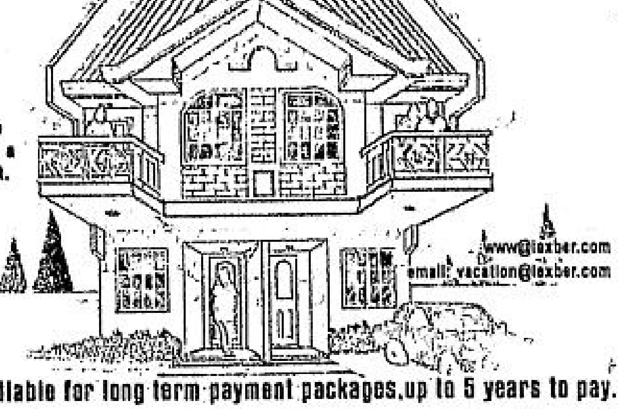

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1975, Series of 2003.

Today's *WHAT'S NEWS* questions:

1. Who is former Pres. Fidel Ramos supporting in the 2004 presidential elections?
    a. Cory Aquino
    b. Joseph Estrada
    c. Loren Legarda
    d. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
2. Who is the "witness" hurling allegations against Mike Arroyo?
    a. Clarissa Ocampo
    b. Gringo Honasan
    c. Eugenio Mahusay
    d. Hermogenes Ebdane
3. Who is accused of masterminding the Kuratong Baleleng murders?
    a. Ping Lacson
    b. Philip Medel
    c. Sef Gonzales
    d. Osama Bin Laden
4. This R&B sensation died last year in a plane crash in the Bahamas.
    a. Britney Spears
    b. Missy Elliot
    c. Aaliyah
    d. Pink
5. Which planet was closest to the earth last Aug. 27?
    a. Venus
    b. Pluto
    c. Neptune
    d. Mars

INQUIRER

what's news TXT Game

Comelec expects 1M voters less in Metro

By Martin P. Marfil

MORE than a million Metro Manila voters will not register or validate their registrations for the 2004 elections.

According to the Commission on Elections' National Capital Region office, this is the emerging trend in the ongoing registration, which will end on Oct. 21, and validation, which ends on Dec. 31.

Out of 5.2 million voters, the Comelec's NCR office said that only 70 percent are expected to validate their votes while 10 percent of first-time voters will register.

Their "reasonable target," the office said in a memorandum, will reach only 4,160,000.

For registered voters who failed to validate their registrations, they may still vote on election day but their names will be included in a separate watchlist in the precincts, a Comelec primer said.

Those in the list could be the subject of exclusion proceedings if their names are not known in the community.

The projection was made despite the recent jump in the turn-out figures per Data Capturing Machine or DCM from 84 on Aug. 18 to 167 on the last day of August.

"We cannot say that the rate will continue to go up considering that we expect more typhoons in the month of September," the Comelec office said.

"Our conservative estimate is that it will stabilize at around 140 voters per DCM per day," it added.

To reach the target, the Comelec's NCR office said it should have at least 256 DCMs to handle 140 voters per machine for the next 100 days.

As of Sept. 5, only 565,275, or 10.74 percent of the 5.26 million voters, have registered or validated their registrations in Metro Manila.

The lowest five "performers" for validation of registrations are Quezon City's third district with only 5.38 percent, Manila's fifth district with 5.62 percent, Taguig with 5.84 percent, Quezon City's second district with 6.07 percent and Manila's sixth district with 6.13 percent.

The top five are Manila's third district with 17.56 percent, Pasay's second district with 16.37 percent, Pateros with 14.89 percent, Pasay's first district with 14.84 percent and Pasig's first district with 12.80 percent.

The Comelec identified two of their problems—slow processing of encoding and data capturing by the laptops and frequent breakdown of DCMs.

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Dear Secretary Reyes,

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I just want to say that this is one citizen (but I suspect among many thousands of others) who wants to thank you for devoting 38 years of your life at the service of the ordinary and unsung Filipino soldier, and of your country. It is only appropriate that the phrase should apply to you.

People tend to forget the many years you spent serving them with honor and distinction through the ranks as a professional soldier. Many only choose to remember you for the January 2001 momentous decision you and your fellow officers made, and remain critical of it. But I believe that history, or maybe in a small footnote since all of us are mere specks in its wake, will vindicate your decision, regardless of the separate issue of whether the succeeding administration did well or not.

You may fade away as a soldier but there are many more years of service left in you to a country badly in need of people with courage and integrity. You are too good a man to spend your days contemplating the sunset. In the meantime, enjoy your family. They must be happiest for your stepping out of the limelight, and deserve your undivided attention, hopefully, not for very long.

With best regards,

Chris Monsod
CHRISTIAN S. MONSOD

ADVT

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 7, 2003
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 35:4-7

Say to those who are afraid:
"Have courage, do not fear.
See, your God comes, demanding justice.
He is the God who rewards,
the God who comes to save you."
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unsealed.
Then will the lame leap as a hart
and the tongue of the dumb sing and shout.
For water will break out in the wilderness
and streams gush forth from the desert.
The thirsty ground will become a pool,
the arid land springs of water.
In the haunts where once reptiles lay,
grass will grow with reeds and rushes.

2nd Reading: James 2:1-5

My brothers and sisters, if you truly believe in our glorified Lord, Jesus Christ, you will not discriminate between persons. Suppose a person enters the synagogue where you are assembled, dressed magnificently and wearing a gold ring; at the same time, a poor person enters dressed in rags. If you focus your attention on the well-dressed and say, "Come and sit in the best seat," while to the poor one you say, "Stay standing or else sit down at my feet," have you not, in fact, made a distinction between the two? Have you not judged, using a double standard?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters, did God not choose the poor of this world to receive the riches of faith and to inherit the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?

Gospel: Mk 7:31-37

Again Jesus set out; from the country of Tyre he passed through Sidon and skirting the sea of Galilee he came to the territory of Decapolis. There a deaf man who also had difficulty in speaking was brought to him. They asked Jesus to lay his hand upon him.

Jesus took him apart from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then, looking up to heaven, he groaned and said to him, "Ephphetha," that is, "Be opened."

And his ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak clearly. Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone, but the more he insisted on this, the more they proclaimed it. The people were completely astonished and said, "He has done all things well; he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

Commentary

"My brethren, show no partiality." James was well aware that injustice may creep in his young Church. Special places and special treatments are given to the rich but lowly places and shabby treatments to the poor. The wise and the educated are given first places while the uneducated are relegated to the last. While this system has worked in the civil society, the Church of Christ is different. In Christ, there is only one head and the rest are members of his body. And every member draws his dignity from his being incorporated into Christ just as a branch that is grafted into a vine draws its life from the vine. Jesus even went further, the poor and the lowly are accorded the preferential love in the kingdom of God. Are we disciples of Jesus in this regard?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Negligence of court employee—Respondent was negligent in the performance of her duty. She was lax in giving her guarantee for the release of the proceeds of the loan especially since a requirement was lacking. As a liaison officer, she knows the requirements and the procedure for the release and approval of the loan. She could have required further proof of the impostor's identification. Having failed to do so, she was negligent and deserves the penalty recommended by the Investigating Body. Respondent cannot absolve herself with the contention that she has followed the same practice for over three years without any complaint. The practice is wrong and precisely allowed impostors to misuse the names of the complainants. A wrong, however long perpetrated, can never be right. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Puno, Guro v. Doronio, A.M. No. 2002-6-SC, February 5, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

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AT FIFTEEN!

MILF said to be harboring Al-Ghozi

By TJ Burgonio

FUGITIVE Indonesian bomb-maker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi is being harbored inside the camps of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, according to a senior police official.

"We have reports that he's been moving around MILF-controlled territories in Mindanao. We just can't get into these territories," said the official who asked not to be named.

If these reports are proven true, this could create "complications" for the exploratory talks between the government and the MILF in Kuala Lumpur in preparation for resuming stalled formal peace talks, he said.

"They'll [the MILF] be accused of acting in bad faith," the official said in a phone interview.

"I hope the MILF fulfills its promise of turning [Al Ghozi] over to the authorities in case he happens to enter any of their camps," he said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied the claim.

"I think that's a fabricated information. It has no basis at all. Why should we be made the receiving end of his escape?" Kabalu said.

He reiterated the MILF's earlier offer to hand over the self-confessed member of the Jemaah Islamiyah to the authorities if Al-Ghozi should stray into any of their camps.

"That's our official stand. If we get lucky, we'll hand him over to the authorities," Kabalu said in a phone interview.

But he maintained that the MILF had no "concrete information" on Al-Ghozi's whereabouts.

The MILF is alleged to have provided sanctuary to Al-Ghozi during the latter's familiarization tours to the Philippines in the late 1990s and of having ties to the JI regional terror network. The group has repeatedly denied the charges.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling hinted on Friday that the military was fast closing in on Al-Ghozi.

"We have leads, and hopefully, within the week, we will have good news. We should just wait," he said.

He said the information came from Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko.

Asked if the leads pointed to the MILF camps, Camiling said: "I won't reveal, let's just wait."

Al-Ghozi, who escaped with two detained Abu Sayyaf suspects from a highly secured detention center at the police headquarters in Camp Crame on July 14, was last sighted in Kabuntalan town in Maguindanao.

The government has offered a P10-million reward for his capture.

Last week, the fact-finding Ordoñez commission said the escape was the result of negligence on the part of police personnel manning the detention center.

Al-Ghozi, who had confessed to funding and perpetrating the simultaneous Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed more than a dozen people, was last year meted a 12-year jail sentence for illegal possession of explosives and firearms.

One of the two other escapees, Abdulmukim Ong Edris, was killed in an alleged shootout with pursuing military troops in Lanao del Norte on Aug. 7. The third escapee, Omar Opik Lasal, remains at large.

Demokrasya
2003
Greenhills

CORY'S CALL
People Power heroine Corazon Aquino seeks commitment from Filipinos to protect democracy at a De La Salle Greenhills gathering organized by civil society groups. *(Story on Page 1.)*
JOAN BONDOC

Erap on land distribution ploy: Been there, done that

By Armand N. Nocum

DISTRIBUTION of land titles to squatter families? Been there, done that.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada, who also resorted to the same gimmick at the height of his impeachment trial, said President Macapagal-Arroyo's wooing of the *masa* is an indication that she is panicking.

"*Nagpa-panic na. Ganyan ang ginagawa ko noong impeachment ko* (She's panicking. I did the same thing during my impeachment trial)," said Estrada, commenting on Ms Macapagal's visit the other day to Parola, Tondo to distribute land titles to the poor.

"She's trying to court the support of the *masa*."

Estrada had frenziedly handed out land titles and goodies to the urban poor during his impeachment trial where he was accused of amassing millions from jueteng collections and kickbacks from the tobacco excise tax.

Estrada said he doubts whether Ms Macapagal could successfully get the poor, most of whom support him, to her side.

He noted that Ms Macapagal, who has pledged to give "security of tenure" to 150,000 urban poor families every year, has been wooing the *masa* for three years now with little success.

"The poor knows fully well that she only stole power from me," Estrada said.

And, if Estrada is to be believed, history does seem to repeat itself.

Estrada said he has received reports that retired generals have been holding meetings to assess the present situation and plot the downfall of Ms Macapagal, the way some of them did during his time.

"It was also the meeting of these generals that precipitated my ouster," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

"It was too bad that I did not pay attention to those meetings. They (the retired generals) were already penetrating the ranks of my military officers led by (then Armed Forces Chief Angelo) Reyes."

Estrada's unsolicited advice to the President is that she should not ignore these meetings because the generals continue to exert strong influence over active military and police officers.

He, however, laughed off rumors that some people have been offering P10 million each to generals and P50,000 to lower-ranking officers for them to support a coup.

Estimating that such venture could run up to billions of pesos, Estrada said he doubts if anyone has that much money.

"The only person I know who has that much money is Jose Pidal," Estrada said, laughing.

He said only Ms Macapagal and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo have a lot of money today.

Estrada said the President's giving of a diamond ring to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Arroyo's P1-million donation to Sin's foundation and the wooing of the poor indicate that Ms Macapagal is aware that she is close to losing her hold on power.

Parricide charges turn Ilusorio family feud uglier

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE FEUD within the wealthy Ilusorio clan has turned uglier, with the family matriarch, Erlinda, and three of her children, filing parricide charges against one of their own before the Department of Justice on Friday.

Charged for the death of the clan patriarch, Potenciano, on June 28, 2001, were Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap, plus a Jane and John Doe.

The respondents allegedly stood by and withheld assistance while Potenciano convulsed and vomited blood before expiring. It is also said they immediately cremated his remains to cover up their supposed crime.

They were charged with "parricide, or homicide, or murder, (as the case may be)" under the Revised Penal Code.

In the nine-page complaint, Erlinda and her children Ramon, Marietta and Shereen said: "It is evident... that the respondents conspired to deliberately let (Potenciano) die because they... could no longer hide his true condition."

Once this "true condition" was known, the complaint said, Potenciano's "purported" signatures that appeared in documents used by the respondents to transfer his assets would be invalidated.

Potenciano was 88 at the time of his death. His survivors continue to fight over the clan's wealth, once estimated at P2 billion.

The battle pits the complainants against Sylvia and her siblings Ma. Erlinda and Maximo, whom their mother is accusing of taking advantage of Potenciano's debility to strip her of conjugal properties.

Potenciano, who had suffered from Alzheimer's disease, was allegedly not allowed to see his wife during his last three years. He died in Ibaan, Batangas, in a farm owned by Sylvia's common-law husband, Enrique Yap.

POTENCIANO ILUSORIO

ERLINDA ILUSORIO

Erlinda said she had written to her estranged children in April 2001, asking them to inform her as soon as Potenciano died and to entrust his remains to her care. But she said she learned of the death more than a day after his cremation.

The complainants have two witnesses: Potenciano's aide Jovita Quimson and security guard Efrin Sampaga.

In her sworn statement, Quimson said Potenciano began having chills and started shaking on the afternoon of July 27, and then vomited blood four or five times. "He went into convulsions... at this time, (his) temperature was 38 degrees."

She said she urged Potenciano's chief bodyguard, Rufino Ninofranco, to take the old man to the hospital, but the bodyguard refused. When Potenciano turned pale, Quimson said, she "personally" telephoned Sylvia. "She asked me to wait for her, (promising) that she would bring a doctor."

Sylvia arrived at the farm after midnight without a doctor, Quimson recounted. "I asked (her) to call an ambulance approximately 15 times," the aide said.

After two hours, she said, Ninofranco and another man were sent to the Lipa hospital but they came back without a doctor, so they were again told to go and get an ambulance.

Quimson continued: "At around 3 a.m., I checked on (Potenciano). He had no vital signs so I applied CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). He could not be revived. I nagged Sylvia... (but) she hit me."

An ambulance from Lipa Paramedics arrived at this point, Quimson said, but Sylvia sent it away. The aide was sure Potenciano would still be alive if he had immediately gotten help.

She said the old man's body was then loaded into a Mercedes 100 van, and that later, Ninofranco, Sylvia and Erlinda, as well as Maximo and his wife Christie told her to stick to one story: that Potenciano had expired on the way to the hospital.

Potenciano was brought to the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City, where he was declared dead. A few hours later, he was cremated at the Manila Memorial Crematory.

Exploratory talks start in Malaysia

THE GOVERNMENT and rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front representatives began exploratory talks in Malaysia on Saturday to try to revive stalled negotiations on ending the decades-old Muslim separatist rebellion in Mindanao.

"Hopefully this will lead to the resumption of formal talks," military Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, who heads the government cease-fire committee, said.

He said representatives of the two sides will also assess the implementation of a cease-fire agreed to in July, including possible violations, the work of inspection teams and the early deployment of a third-party monitoring team from Malaysia.

"I am very glad to report that many of these things have been resolved," he said. "There is no doubt that the cease-fire is holding."

Malaysia is brokering the talks, which seek to end more than 30 years of Muslim armed struggle for self-rule in the southern Philippines.

Rebel spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the rebels are also demanding the speedy withdrawal of troops from the Buliok Complex, a rebel area on the main southern island of Mindanao that was overrun by government troops earlier this year.

Formal negotiations have stalled since 2001, but prospects for their resumption brightened after rebel leaders issued a statement in July renouncing terrorism, a key government demand. That was followed by the lifting of arrest warrants for top MILF leaders, allowing them to travel to Kuala Lumpur to participate in the talks. *AP*

Why Pentagon gang won't die

COTABATO CITY—The military had failed to crush the notorious Pentagon gang despite its capture in February of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's main camp inside the Buliok complex where the kidnap-for-ransom group allegedly sought refuge.

Monday's foiled attempt by suspected Pentagon gang members to abduct rice mill operator Roberto Ang Ho in Tacurong City indicated that the kidnap group is still very much around, the military said.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, noted that military operations against the Pentagon gang rendered the group inactive during the past months.

The military launched an offensive on the Buliok complex inside the Liguasan Marsh after accusing the MILF of harboring Pentagon gang kidnappers, terrorist bombers and other outlaws.

Raising funds

But Senga said last Monday's incident in Tacurong City, where suspected Pentagon gang members killed 10 people during an aborted kidnap try, indicates that the group, now headed by Tahir Alonto, was trying to raise funds and strengthen its resources.

The Pentagon gang, founded by Alonto and Faizal Marohombsar in 1999, is composed of former Moro rebels. It gained notoriety in 2000 when it seized five Chinese engineers working at a government irrigation project in North Cotabato.

Two of their captives were killed during a botched rescue operation. Others were freed after ransom was paid.

Marohombsar, who escaped from his detention cell at Camp Crame, was later killed in a police operation in Cavite last year.

Tahir's group was being linked with the MILF.

The military said MILF guerrillas had given sanctuary to kidnappers in the Liguasan Marsh to shield them from pursuing soldiers.

But this was consistently denied by MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, adding that the military was only using the Pentagon as an excuse to launch war against the MILF.

"We have proven this when they attacked our position in the Buliok complex," he said.

Radio reports here quoted Senga as saying the military would vigorously pursue the Pentagon gang which is also on the US State Department's list of terrorist groups.

Gets smaller

AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said the world of the Pentagon gang and similar organized crime groups was getting smaller after the government and the MILF agreed to fully implement an earlier accord for cooperation against criminality.

MILF chair Ebrahim Murad said the mechanics for the implementation of the agreement was still being discussed to avoid misencounters between the military and MILF forces.

Aside from cooperating with the government's anti-crime campaign, Murad said the MILF was also helping in the fight against terrorism.

Earlier, he ordered MILF field commanders to help in the manhunt for fugitive Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an operative of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a regional terror group.

JI, blamed for the series of bombing incidents in Southeast Asia, including the Bali blasts, is believed to have links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

The MILF said its cooperative stance was aimed at boosting the peace process which could finally put an end to the decades-old Bangsamoro rebellion in Southern Philippines. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lecture on heirloom ceramics

CYNTHIA Ongpin Valdes will give a talk on on "Heirloom Ceramics in the Philippines" on Sept. 20 at the National Museum.

Most of the trade ceramics found in the country have been excavated from grave or burial sites, retrieved from shipwrecks or they are heirloom pieces handed down from one generation to another.

The lecture, part of the Lectures 2003 series sponsored by the National Museum and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, will focus on heirloom ceramics which are usually utilized in rituals among groups in the Philippines still practicing traditional cultures.

The lecture will start at 10 a.m., at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall of the Museum of the Filipino People (former Finance Bldg) at Rizal Park. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m.

For further information call Jing Pascual at 404 26 85 or Cynthia Valdes at 842 03 29.

Tribal kids produce own TV show

From page A1

rence Tabur, 14—all high school students in the Mt. Province.

The training took place in May-June, and starting this month, the young reporters from various tribal communities in this province will present a video on the subject critical to their lives—how tribal wars affect children.

Even during their workshop in Manila, these mountain youth consistently expressed the desire to do a documentary on what usually happened to children's education whenever their elders were engaged in tribal conflicts.

Dr. Terrel Hill, Unicef representative in the Philippines, said the world organization recognized the impact of mass media on young people.

Unicef's decision to push the KNN project, which is aimed at enabling children to express themselves and participate meaningfully in society, particularly through TV, was made in response to the current concern about the sharp decrease in the quality of media offerings for young Filipinos.

"It's the children's right to participate in making decisions," Hill said. "If our leaders consider the issues of children, if they just listen to them, then they will be able to come up with better decisions."

ABS-CBN News and the government-owned National Broadcasting Network have pledged to contribute airtime monthly in support of the project, which is also aimed at boosting the child-friendly movement in the Philippines.

6 bureaus

"We want to create an informative and unusual TV show that reflects the voices of the enormously talented Filipino youth from all corners of the country," said Dale Rutstein, Unicef communications officer in Manila.

According to Rutstein, the KNN project involves the establishment of six bureaus, each composed of five reporters aged 13-17 and mostly belonging to poor families who are beneficiaries of non-government organizations.

All of the reporters are in school, but they are considered volunteers getting excellent educational opportunities from the project.

The bureaus—located in Metro Manila, Mt. Province, Capiz, Zamboanga del Sur, and the cities of Davao and Cebu—are managed by non-TV professionals in Unicef's partner agencies, such as the Philippine Information Agency and provincial/city planning and development offices.

Unicef has allocated P2.5 million for the KNN project. The money will fund the six bureaus' expenses for equipment acquisition, training, adult facilitation and logistics, as well as the coordination and production of the pilot phase of the program.

All the reporters are trained and guided by the Probe Media Foundation, the training and advocacy arm of the TV show "The Probe Team."

"The idea is that this would open a powerful channel to carry the voices of young Filipinos to a national audience, to sensitize hundreds of thousands of television viewers to the conditions, issues, problems, joys and abilities of Filipino youth in general, and of children in need of special protection in particular," Rutstein told the INQUIRER.

He added: "We only know of one other similar TV show, and that is in Albania. Unicef played a central role in developing that show as well."

Training

During the training phase, which also involved children's rights and participation, the would-be TV producers did a lot of practice shots and interviews and went through all the steps of producing and editing a video.

The normally shy KNNers from the Mt. Province became articulate and witty when the INQUIRER asked them about their dream projects.

Brett, a student of the Sagada National High School, said she wanted to document how children could earn money in the tourist town of Sagada.

"In Sagada, tourism offers job opportunities, and the young and old can benefit from them. Children can earn too without being exploited," she said.

Tabur and David said they had been longing to show how Mt. Province children could go to school and preserve their rice terraces at the same time.

"Children here are flexible. They can work in the fields and take care of plants until they grow," Tabur said.

Never before exposed to video production and editing, the children were excited and nervous to use the video camera provided by Unicef when they interviewed pop icon Gary Valenciano during his visit to Bontoc in June.

"We made mistakes on the set, but we enjoyed the whole experience. It was wonderful," Kiniway and her companions said.

They were delighted when Valenciano and The Probe Team's Che Che Lazaro commended them for a good job.

Judge fired by SC for ₱5,000 bribe

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOR receiving P5,000 bribe, a Valenzuela judge has been dismissed by the Supreme Court.

The high court also sacked a court stenographer from Baler, Aurora for immoral conduct.

Dismissed following an entrapment operation by the National Bureau of Investigation was Judge Jaime Bautista of the Valenzuela Regional Trial Court Branch 75.

The SC ordered the forfeiture of all of his retirement benefits, except accrued vacation and sick leave credits, and ruled out any future re-employment or appointment in government, including state-owned and controlled corporations.

Process server Alma Martillana, of the Baler, Aurora RTC Branch 96, was likewise dismissed after the high court found she was living with a married man although she was also married.

Bautista was arrested right inside his chamber after he received the P5,000 in marked money from an employee of one of the parties with a pending case before him. Acting on the administrative charges filed against the judge, the SC ordered his indefinite suspension on March 27, 2001.

The Court ruled that Bautista violated the Canon of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which directs udges to behave at all times in such a way as to promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

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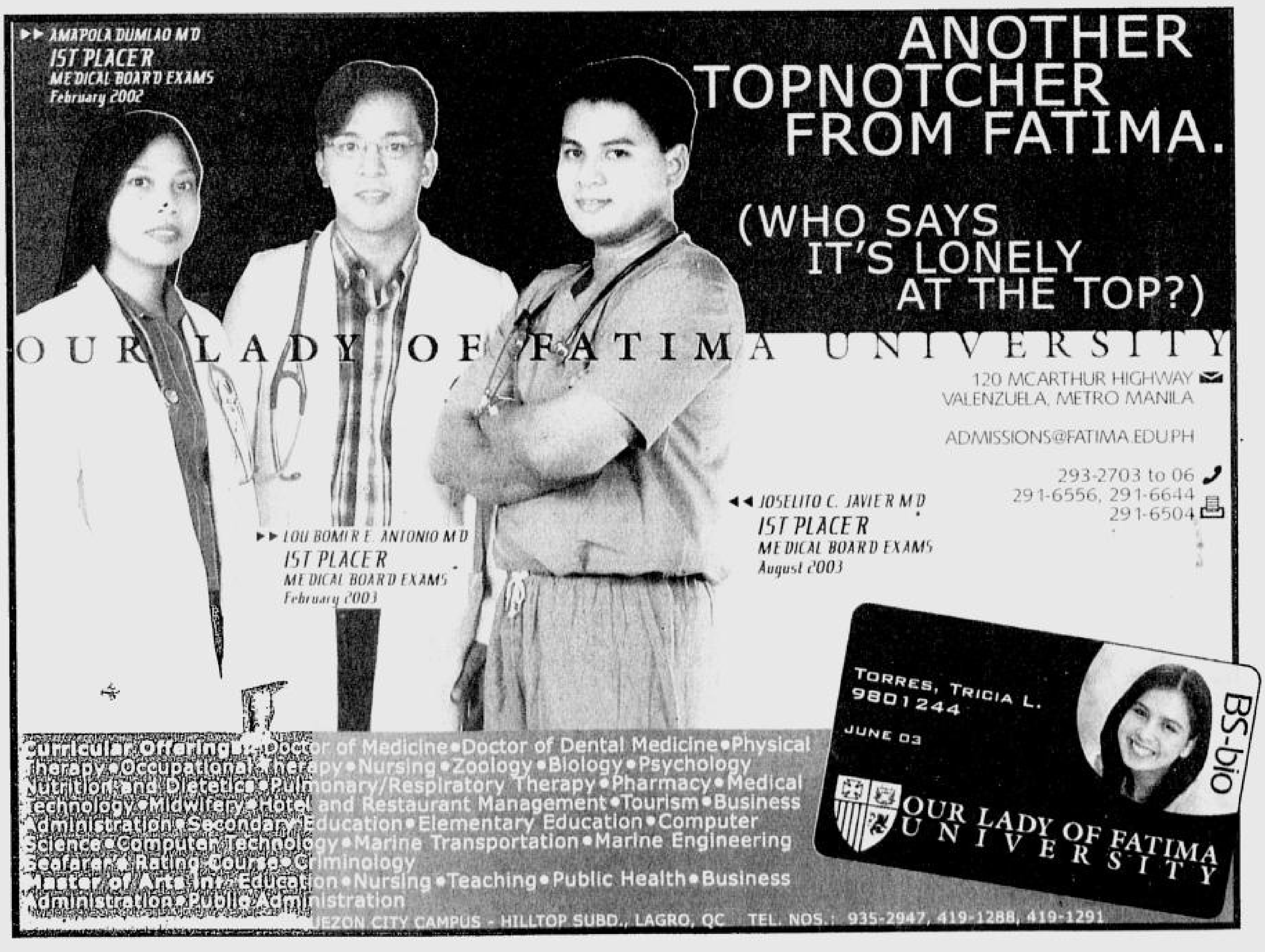

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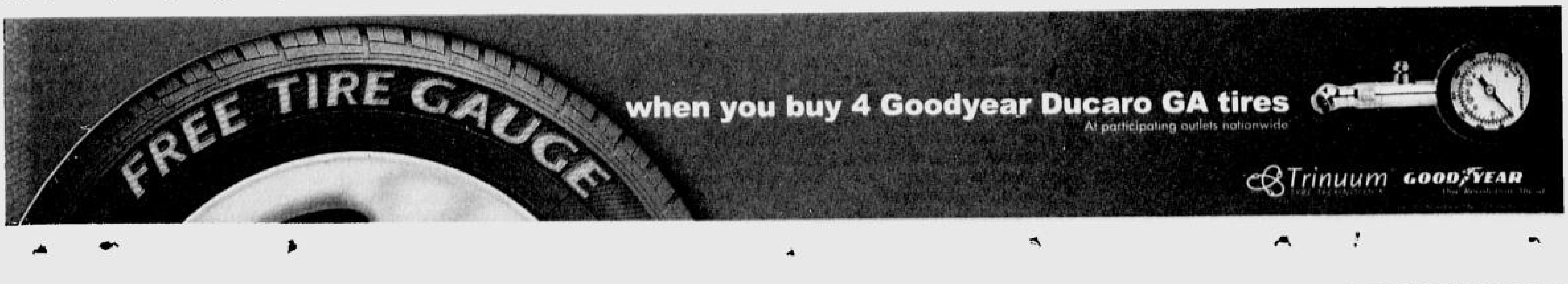
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Abbas quits, deals blow to peace plan

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas submitted his resignation to Yasser Arafat on Saturday in frustration at being thwarted in a struggle with the Palestinan president, a senior official said.

The departure of the moderate Abbas could destroy a US-backed plan for peace with Israel, already damaged by the collapse of a truce declared by Palestinian militants and by a relentless Israeli campaign o kill or capture their leaders.

Palestinian legislator and negoiator Saeb Erekat, who 's close to Arafat, said Abbas had handed in a written resignation to officials to ake to the president.

Arafat shortly after accepted Abbas' resignation which put it in effect, senior officials said.

"Arafat has accepted the resignation and asked (Abbas) to run a caretaker cabinet until a new cabinet is formed," one Palestinian official said.

Abbas was appointed by Arafat only four months ago under international pressure for an end to almost three years of Middle East bloodshed.

Abbas had told members of parliament on Thursday to sack him if they would not back him in his bid to obtain more authority from Arafat to carry out democratic reforms and subdue militant factions hostile to negotiated peace with Israel.

Both steps, along with Israeli withdrawals from occupied territory, are mandated by the "road map," a peace plan envisaging a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by 2005 alongside a secure Israel.

A senior Palestinian official said: "Abbas's problems (in part stem from) the continuation of Israeli incursions and assassinations. In addition to that the American administration has done little to make Israel comply with the road map."

On Friday, US Secretary of State Colin Powell promised that the United States would work harder on peace between Israelis and Palestinians and backed Abbas against Arafat.

"We need to redouble our efforts. We need to keep the pressure on both sides to do everything they can to get to that point where Israelis and Palestinians can live side-by-side in peace," Powell said in a speech at George Washington University.

"Unfortunately Chairman Yasser Arafat has not been playing a helpful role. He has not been an interlocutor for peace over the years. His actions do not move the parties farther down the road to peace," Powell said.

The senior Palestinian official said an intimidating demonstration against Abbas outside parliament on Thursday by members of a militant faction loyal to Arafat had been another factor in the premier's decision to quit.

Abbas, 68, a reticent former peace negotiator lacking wide popularity, has been vying with Arafat, 74, the iconic ex-guerrilla leader who has led the Palestinian independence movement since the 1960s, for more power to save the "road map." *Reuters*

ABBAS

Disneyland roller coaster crash kills 1

LOS ANGELES—The locomotive hauling cars on a popular roller coaster ride at Disneyland split apart from the rest of the train on Friday, killing one man and injuring 10 other passengers, officials said.

The locomotive on the Big Thunder Mountain Railroad attraction broke away from the passenger cars as the train went through a dark tunnel about 11:20 a.m., officials in Anaheim, California, said.

An adult man in the first passenger car of the roller coaster was found dead by emergency workers who arrived at the roller coaster, a train ride that blasts through a Western landscape past falling rocks and waterfalls and through fake mine shafts and caverns.

Disney shut down the ride for investigation.

"The locomotive itself disconnected from the passenger cars. How it was disconnected or became disconnected we are not sure at this point," Anaheim fire and police spokesperson John Nicoletti said.

A local television station said the injured riders ranged in age from 9 to 47 years old. Eight of the passengers were taken to hospitals, including four males and four females.

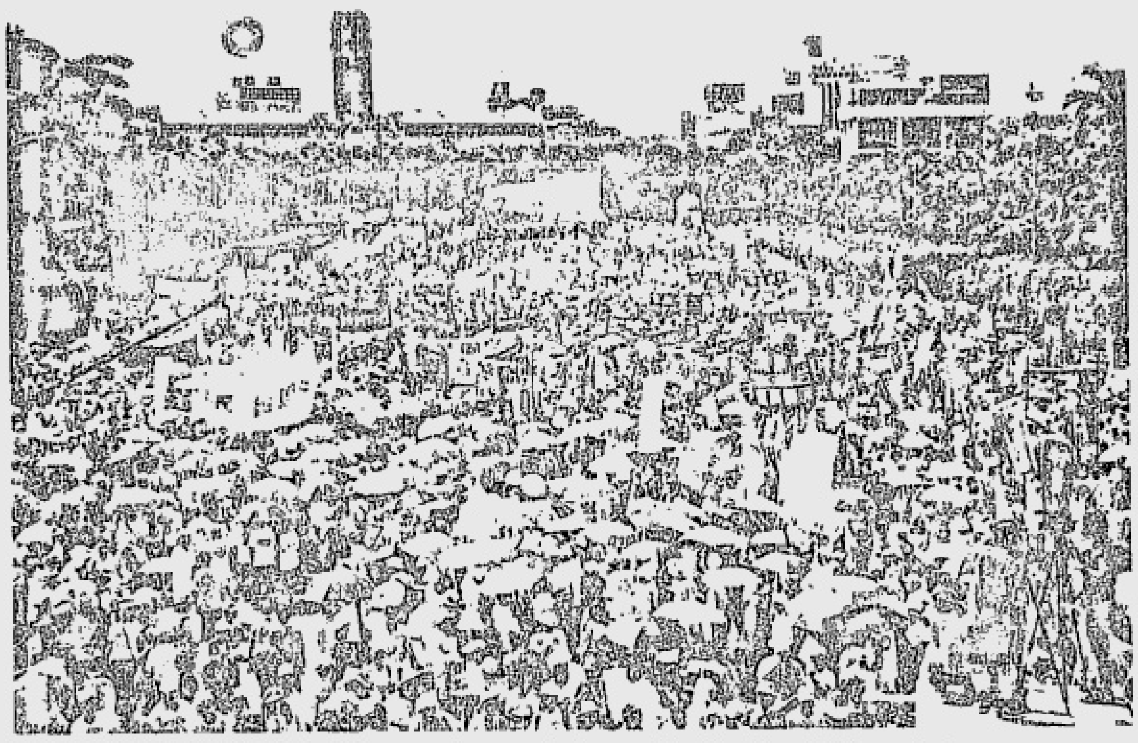
Some passengers left the ride immediately after the accident, and it was not clear how many people had been on board, Nicoletti said.

Chair and chief executive Michael Eisner said Disney was working with authorities to find the cause of the accident.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to those injured and to the family of the deceased," he said.

Disneyland is owned by Walt Disney Co., the largest theme park operator in the world.

"At this point we don't believe sabotage was involved, but we are going to look at everything," Anaheim police Sgt. Rick Martinez told reporters. *Reuters*



DEMONSTRATORS display placards and banners in front of the Presidential Palace during a demonstration in Taipei, Sept. 6. More than 30,000 pro-Taiwan independent activists chanted slogans to demand the government to change the national name to Republic of Taiwan. AFP

Taiwan pro-independence activists march, demand island's name changed

TAIPEI—Tens of thousands of pro-independence activists took to the streets of Taiwan's capital Taipei on Saturday to call for the island's official name to be changed to Taiwan from the Republic of China.

People from across the island chanted "Taiwan people, Taiwan nation" and "Use the name Taiwan to join the United Nations" as they slowly marched through Taipei's city center to the presidential office.

Saturday's peaceful event was the biggest since a massive farmers' protest last November. Witnesses said more than 50,000 people took part, while organizers estimated the turnout could top 100,000 people.

"Taiwan is Taiwan. It has never run mainland China. Why should we insist on calling our country the Republic of China?" asked Chen Feng-ming, a 45-year-old businssswoman from the southern city of Kaohsiung.

The name "Republic of China" is a legacy from when the former ruling Nationalist Party ruled mainland China from Nanjing before fleeing to Taiwan after losing a civil war to the Communists in 1949.

Beijing insists there is only one China and regards self-governing Taiwan as a breakaway province that must be eventually reunified, by force if necessary.

Although an overwhelming majority of the Taiwan public wants to maintain the ambiguous status quo, local politics is bitterly split between groups favoring independence for the island or eventual union with the mainland.

Supporters of reunification with China planned to hold a counter-protest on Sunday.

With presidential elections six months away, President Chen Shui-bian chose to distance himself from the rally to avoid alienating mainstream voters. Chen spent the day in his hometown of Tainan on Saturday and talked about education reforms.

Chen has mellowed his pro-independence stance since taking office but refuses to embrace Beijing's one-China principle that states Taiwan is a part of China.

But former president Lee Teng-hui joined the rally and was greeted by flag-waving supporters with air horns. *Reuters*

US offers to revise UN measure on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS—Facing opposition from France and Germany, the United States has offered to revise a UN resolution aimed at getting more peacekeeping troops into Iraq and Secretary-General Kofi Annan has proposed a meeting of key foreign ministers to work out a compromise.

At Friday's first informal meeting of the 15 Security Council members to discuss the draft resolution, diplomats said the differences could be bridged if the United States agreed to move more quickly to restore Iraq's sovereignty and give the United Nations more power to rebuild the country.

The United States took a more flexible stance than it has on previous Iraq-related issues that have come before the council. Supporters and opponents of the US draft said Friday's closed-door session was much more open to give-and-take.

US Ambassador John Negroponte welcomed the "good discussion," saying the resolution was a way forward because it focused on "the rapid restoration of full sovereignty to Iraq." He stressed, however, that the US proposal was only "a working draft" and his boss in Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell, offered to "adjust and adapt" the text.

But in a swipe at France and Germany, he told reporters, "If you would like to see something different, make a proposal in addition to an editorial comment."

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said in an interview published Friday that "we will make proposals, together with our partners on the Security Council." Germany, Russia, Chile and Mexico have also suggested changes.

Britain's UN Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, the current Security Council president, said there will be further council meetings next week. Annan told CNN that foreign ministers of the five permanent council nations with veto power—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France—should meet with him soon, perhaps in Europe, "to explore a common ground and the way forward."

De Villepin said France intends "absolutely" to cooperate with the United States to find consensus on a resolution.

"We're entering this new stage in a constructive and open spirit," he was quoted as saying in Le Figaro. "The American proposal is testimony to a greater willingness to join the framework of the United Nations."

The US draft would transform the US-led multinational force into a UN-authorized multinational force under a unified command, which the United States insists must be led by an American general. It would also invite the US-picked Iraqi Governing Council to work with UN and US officials to produce a timetable for drafting a new constitution and holding democratic elections—keys to restoring Iraq's sovereignty.

However, the draft resolution doesn't relinquish US political or military control of Iraq, and many council nations are demanding a much stronger UN role.

France and Germany, which opposed the war on Iraq, are conditioning their approval of the resolution on a more rapid transition of power from the Governing Council to a new government elected by Iraqis.

France wants some responsibilities now in US hands transferred to the Governing Council immediately, to show the Iraqi people that the international community is serious about restoring their sovereignty, council diplomats said.

France would also like to see the United Nations replace the United States as Iraq's interim administrator, as would Mexico. Syria and Germany want a UN-led force, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity. *AP*

US okays pill which reduces frequency of women's periods

WASHINGTON—A new birth-control pill named Seasonale promises to reduce the frequency of women's periods, from every month to four times a year.

The contraceptive pills, approved by the Food and Drug Administration on Friday, aren't a new chemical. They contain the same combination of low-dose estrogen and progestin found in many oral contraceptives.

Nor is the idea of menstrual suppression new. For decades, many doctors have told women how to skip a period by continually taking the active birth-control pills in each month's supply and ignoring the week of dummy pills in each packet.

Seasonale promises to make the option a little more convenient, with packaging that gives women 12 straight weeks of active pills and then a week of dummy pills for their period. And the FDA's approval means menstrual suppression could become more common as Seasonale's advertising alerts women to the option.

Seasonale isn't perfect, the FDA cautioned.

While women have fewer scheduled periods, studies show Seasonale users have about twice the risk of unexpected "breakthrough" bleeding between periods as woman taking conventional monthly cycle pills, especially in the first few cycles of use.

Also, 7.7 percent of Seasonale users dropped out of studies citing unacceptable bleeding, compared with 1.8 percent of women taking conventional monthly pills.

While the risk of breakthrough bleeding declines with each cycle of Seasonale use, FDA said some women had it so often that their total days of bleeding over a year were no less than with regular pills.

"Each woman will respond to this product somewhat differently," said FDA's Dr. Scott Monroe. "Some will find they respond entirely as the product was designed to function, and others will have increased intermenstrual bleeding to the extent that they choose not to continue with the product."

The manufacturer, Barr Laboratories, plans to have prescription-only Seasonale in pharmacies by November. Barr wouldn't reveal Seasonale's price but said it will be comparable to other brand-name oral contraceptives, which sell for roughly $1 a pill. Generic versions can cost half that amount.

Having fewer periods "was absolutely fabulous," said Shannon Zaichenko, 27, of Chesapeake, Virginia, who spent three years in a study of Seasonale.

"It's the convenience, not being bogged down, not having to plan vacations or just lifestyle around seven days of bleeding," she said. A frequent traveler, Zaichenko recalled that before Seasonale her periods "always seemed to happen when I was on a plane for 20 hours."

Seasonale also may be attractive to women who experience severe cramping, heavy bleeding and other menstrual-related symptoms, a number Barr estimates at 2.5 million in the United States. *AP*

BETANCOURT after winning a seat in parliament March 9, 1998. AP

Betancourt to be freed shortly

BOGOTA—Kidnapped ex-presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt is set to be freed shortly by FARC rebels who want her to push for a hostage-rebel exchange, two lawmakers said Friday, citing sources.

Betancourt, 41, a former Colombian senator who also has French citizenship, will be freed "in the next few days," the idea being for her "to lead a humanitarian accord between this rebel group and the government," lower house president Alonso Acosta said.

Acosta said the information had come from a number of sources, without specifying further.

"I think it is positive for the family (of Betancourt), for the country, that a person who was a presidential candidate should be freed as a humanitarian gesture by the guerrillas."

In a 22-minute videotape recorded sometime after May 5 and aired last weekend, the high-profile hostage called on Colombia's military to release her.

Betancourt, who was seized in February 2002 along with her campaign advisor, has become the most celebrated of some 850 military, political and civilian hostages held by the rebel group in the war-torn nation.

Conservative Party leader Sen. Carlos Holguin said he thought that freeing Betancourt would line up with "a strategy to undercut support for" President Alvaro Uribe.

Holguin said the rebels had "used" Betancourt "to send a message" in Saturday's video to ask the government to negotiate an exchange of rebel prisoners for soldiers and police held by the FARC. *AFP*

Driver's card for C'fornia illegals

LOS ANGELES—Democratic Governor Gray Davis, the subject of next month's controversial recall vote, approved late Friday legislation allowing undocumented migrants living in California the possibility of obtaining a drivers license.

The law will dispense with the current requirement to show US citizenship or visas to obtain the document, the nearest thing to an identity card in the United States.

About two million undocumented immigrants are believed to be living in California.

"Right now, let's not kid ourselves," Davis said. "People are driving to work. They are driving without the demonstration they know the rules of the road."

The citizenship rules were imposed in 1993 when Pete Wilson—currently an adviser on actor Arnold Schwarzenegger's gubernatorial campaign—was governor.

Schwarzenegger has already said that he would overturn the law if Davis is recalled in the Oct. 7 election, and he is swept into office.

"There is a security problem with it," he said, arguing, like many Republicans, that the measure encourages illegal immigration and makes it easier for foreign terrorists to enter the state. *AFP*

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Bong Pineda linked to 'jueteng' in Bataan

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Suspected *jueteng* lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda is apparently back in the illegal numbers game, police reports said.

A memorandum obtained by the INQUIRER on a Sept. 3 raid in Dinalupihan, Bataan, identified Pineda as the supposed financier of *jueteng* operations there.

It was the only known recent memorandum that again linked Pineda to *jueteng* operations after former President Joseph Estrada was ousted in 2001. Estrada was linked to the *jueteng* payola scam in 2000, after former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claimed that the former president received *jueteng* protection money from Pineda.

Several recent intelligence reports on *jueteng* operations never mentioned Pineda. Police sources said Pineda had given up his control over his bases of operations in Central Luzon after President Macapagal-Arroyo, his town mate in Lubao, rose to power in January 2001.

Pineda was never criminally charged after the juetengate scandal and was not convicted in a 1995 case accusing him of corrupting public officials.

A relative said Pineda had left for the United States earlier this year and was "definitely not" financing the *jueteng* operations in Bataan.

"He does not want trouble," the source, speaking in Filipino, told the INQUIRER by phone on Friday night.

The memorandum, obtained from the regional police's intelligence office, said 33 people arrested during the raid in Barangay Old San Jose, Dinalupihan, were "all employees of alleged *jueteng* lord Bong Pineda of Lubao."

The 33 people arrested during the raid are residents of Pampanga and Bataan,' the report showed.

The police reported confiscating P6,532.50 worth of bets, bet sheets and a record book.

The suspects, held at the Dinalupihan police station, were charged with violation of Presidential Decree 1602 or the anti-illegal gambling law.

Throughout Central Luzon, *jueteng* appeared to be on the rise as the May 2004 elections draw near, separate reports gathered from this camp showed.

On Friday, policemen reported busting three *jueteng* groups in separate raids in Pilar and Mariveles towns in Bataan.

At least 51 employees and bettors in Barangays Poblacion and Sta. Rosa in Pilar and Balon Anito in Mariveles were arrested in those raids, the police said.

Although claiming that *jueteng* was not rampant anymore in Central Luzon, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, regional police director, ordered provincial and city police directors to "hit hard on all forms of illegal gambling activities in the region, particularly *jueteng*."

Another Camp Olivas report said the police conducted 572 raids on *jueteng* operations from Jan. 1 to Sept. 2.

Of the 1,792 people arrested in the last eight months, only one financier running the game in Tarlac was arrested, the report showed.

Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Pampanga topped the provinces with most raids. There were least raids in Zambales and Bataan, and in Angeles and Olongapo cities where the game had reportedly been consistently on the rise. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SCHOOL children parade with a mock tuna fish during a street dance competition held in conjunction with the week-long Tuna festival in General Santos. REUTERS

4 cops linked to drugs to be sacked

DUMAGUETE CITY—Four policemen in this city suspected of involvement in illegal drug activities will be relieved from their posts and transferred to the Negros Oriental provincial police pending investigation.

The transfer of the four cops came after Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, Philippine National Police director for Central Visayas, directed the police provincial office and the city police station to take action against the policemen linked to illegal drugs.

Delfin said he promised City Mayor Agustin Perdices to act on the report within a month. He did not mention what action would be taken but Perdices said the four Dumaguete police personnel would be booted out from the city.

Perdices said his main concern was the immediate transfer of the policemen from Dumaguete. He said he would leave it to the PNP to decide on the sanction against the four policemen.

Supt. Constantino Barot Jr., Dumaguete PNP chief, disclosed that the four policemen would be subjected to drug tests and if found positive, would be discharged from the service.

The suspects have been frequenting alleged drug dens in the city despite warning issued by their superior. Arnaiz had earlier revealed over a local radio station that six policemen in Dumaguete were involved in drug activities. He said various intelligence groups have confirmed the report.

However, Barot said one of the six is not from the Dumaguete PNP and the other one is not yet confirmed.

Delfin, who paid Arnaiz and Perdices separate courtesy calls on Friday, assured the PNP is now running after men in uniform who are involved in drugs.

He said that since he assumed the post in Central Visayas late last year, four personnel in the regional PNP headquarters have been discharged from the service due to their involvement in illegal drug activities. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Rebel killed in clash at Danding's fishpond

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A member of the communist group Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB) was killed in an encounter on Saturday with policemen and Army soldiers in a fishpond owned by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. in Lubao town.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, said the running gun battle between 19 RHB rebels and government troops in Barangay San Rafael Baruya lasted for 45 minutes.

1Lt. Tony Yago, head of the Army's 69th Infantry Battalion, identified the slain rebel as Blando Pasol.

Supt. Keith Singian, Lubao police chief, said the rebels were in Cojuangco's aquaculture farm, managed by a certain retired Colonel Mejia, to pick up "extortion money."

Fishpond workers did not issue a statement on why the rebels were in the area.

Singian reported the recovery of an M-16 Armalite rifle in the encounter site. The RHB, a rival faction of the New People's Army, has yet to confirm whether its forces actually clashed with government forces.

A certain Ka Joshua led this band of rebels, Singian said.

By past noon Saturday, government troops were still scouring the area for wounded rebels. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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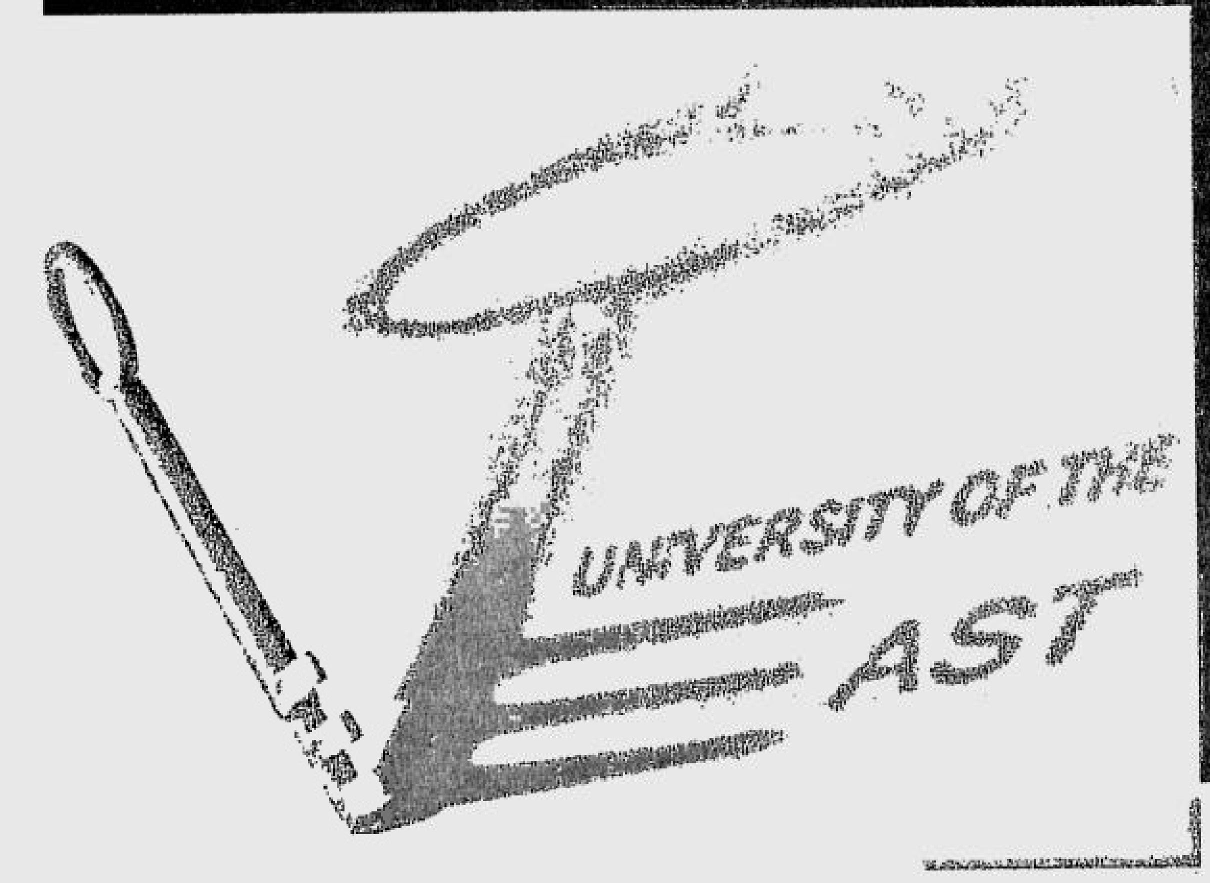

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Family pedals way back home to Leyte from Manila

JOSE Villanueva (left) and son-in-law, Mateo brave about 550 km of roads, from Manila to Bicol to bring their families back to Leyte using the two "padyak." FREDDIE ROSAROS

By Joyce Mejillano and Gil Francis Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Frustrated with their miserable life in Metro Manila and with no money for their transportation, a family of seven decided to pedal their way back to their home province of Leyte on board two *pedicab* (popularly known as *padyak*) units that turned into makeshift shanties.

With only P1,500 in their pockets, the family of Jose Villanueva, 52, left Quezon City on April 26 and reached Daraga, Albay on Tuesday, more than four months after.

The family was composed of Villanueva, his daughter Maricris, 19, Maricris' husband Mateo Bondi, 34, another daughter Marlyn, 10 and the Bondis' three kids—Mac-Mac, 4, Babylyn, 2, and two-week-old Christopher.

Stranded in Daraga, Albay due to heavy rains on Tuesday, the family was spotted by mediaman Darlan Barcelon of dwZR while eating inside their *padyak*-cum-makeshift house units.

Barcelon brought the family to the radio station for safety and initiated ways to help them.

Villanueva left his hometown of Palo, Leyte with his daughter about 17 years ago, thinking that Manila would give them the life he had dreamed of. But life in the city turned out to be worse for them.

They rented a shanty in a squatter area in Fairview, Quezon City, after their makeshift house in East Avenue was burned several years earlier. They experienced being evicted and transferring from one place to another.

He said the money they earned through vending was not enough to support his family. Sometimes, police would arrest them for illegal vending and they had to pay fines.

"Everywhere you go or everything you do in Manila involves money," he said in Filipino.

He said he could not work that hard after he underwent an appendectomy about two years ago.

He used to have a sideline repairing electrical appliances but demand for his services became low until he ran out of customers.

He said he had tried everything but good fortune was elusive. Maricris also never got the chance to go to school due to financial difficulties. "With our miserable life, we could not pay attention to education," Maricris said.

Tough journey

Braving about 550 km from Manila to Legazpi was no mean feat. There were times, he said, when their *pedicabs* could not negotiate an uphill road and had to ask help from other people to push them through.

The journey was even harder for Maricris, who was five months pregnant when they left Manila. She delivered a baby boy in Iriga City about two weeks ago. But the baby had a cleft upper lip, just like his sister Babylyn.

Villanueva said their worst trial was when they ran out of money after Maricris gave birth. The hospital did not charge them for her delivery but they were obliged to buy her medicines. "Since we only had little money, we soon ran out of cash," he said.

"Often, we ate [a small amount of] food to minimize expenses. Some generous people along the way gave us food, sometimes," he said.

Maricris' husband, Mateo, also contacted fever and flu for two weeks, prompting them to slow down, since Mateo was the one who drove the other *pedicab*. Their daughter, Babylyn, also had coughs for almost a week.

Though they were not sure of the kind of life that awaits them in Leyte, Villanueva was hopeful. He said they would use the two pedicabs to start a new life in Leyte.

Villanueva said they were continuing their journey so that they would reach their hometown before Christmas.

Help

But little did they know that it was in Bicol where they would get the help they wanted to get home fast. Their story, broadcasted on radio, touched the listening public and sent help.

Barcelon said that as of Wednesday, the family had collected P1,080 from donations and were still receiving pledges from listeners.

Albay Vice Gov. James Calisin also helped with their medical checkup conducted by the Albay health office. The Albay health office gave diapers to the baby and clothes and toys for the other kids.

The Maritime Industry Authority in Bicol gave ferry tickets to Leyte. The Bicolandia Lines also promised to transport them to Matnog port.

Villanueva was grateful. It was only in Albay, where the people cared to help them, he said. On Thursday, the family resumed their travel, but this time, it was no longer through their *padyaks*.

"We're still taking the *padyaks* with us. They might still be useful when we get there," Villanueva said. For him, the *padyak* had assumed the symbol of their very humble life and of generosity and new hope.

More tourists went to Boracay this year – DOT

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Trust the Filipino's propensity for merry-making and liberal spending on food and drinks.

Tourist arrivals on Boracay Island enjoyed a slight increase despite the drop in foreign tourists due to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome scare early this year. Income from tourists in the country's premiere tourist destination also increased.

Tourism regional director Edwin Trompeta said the increase in local tourists who came to Boracay during long holidays compensated for the drop in foreign visitors.

The total number of visitors on the island reached 219,664 as of July, according to data from the Tourism regional office. This is 2.88 percent higher than the 213,504 visitors recorded in the same period last year.

The number of domestic tourists reached 177,471 while overseas Filipino visitors and foreign tourists reached 1,539 and 40,654, respectively.

The number of foreign tourists dropped by 9 percent compared to the 44,767 recorded for the same period last year. Domestic tourists, however, increased by 5 percent from the 168, 737.

The drop in foreign tourists occurred from March to June during the height of the SARS scare.

Domestic tourists also took advantage of the long vacation during the Holy Week and Labor Day after the government declared long holidays to encourage families to spend longer vacations in tourist spots.

Most hotels and resorts were booked, mostly by local tourists, during these long holidays, according to a survey conducted by the Department of Tourism.

Room occupancy was pegged from a low of 74 percent to 100 percent. Almost all of the hotels and resorts surveyed were fully booked for three straight days from April 17 to 19.

The continued increase in tourist arrivals boosted gross earnings by 4.21 percent to P4.03 billion recorded as of July from P3.87 billion in the same period last year.

More than 300,000 tourists, mostly domestic tourists, visited the island and poured in P5.5 billion to the local economy last year, according to DOT records. The number is 13.59 percent higher than that recorded in 2001.

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5 Michael Brandes - *Capt. Hipolito Francisco Elementary School, Pateros*
6 Ednalyn S. Adriano - *Bagong Silang Elementary School, Caloocan*
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11 Renjie Raz - *Mapulang Lupa Elementary School, Valenzuela*
12 Carl Adrian Cabil - *Pio Valenzuela Elementary School, Valenzuela*
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15 Edgie Nuñez - *Baseco Elementary School, Manila*
16 Ronnel Sembrano - *Ninoy Aquino Elementary School, Malabon*
17 Ronnie Santiago - *Tangos Elementary School, Navotas*
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OPINION

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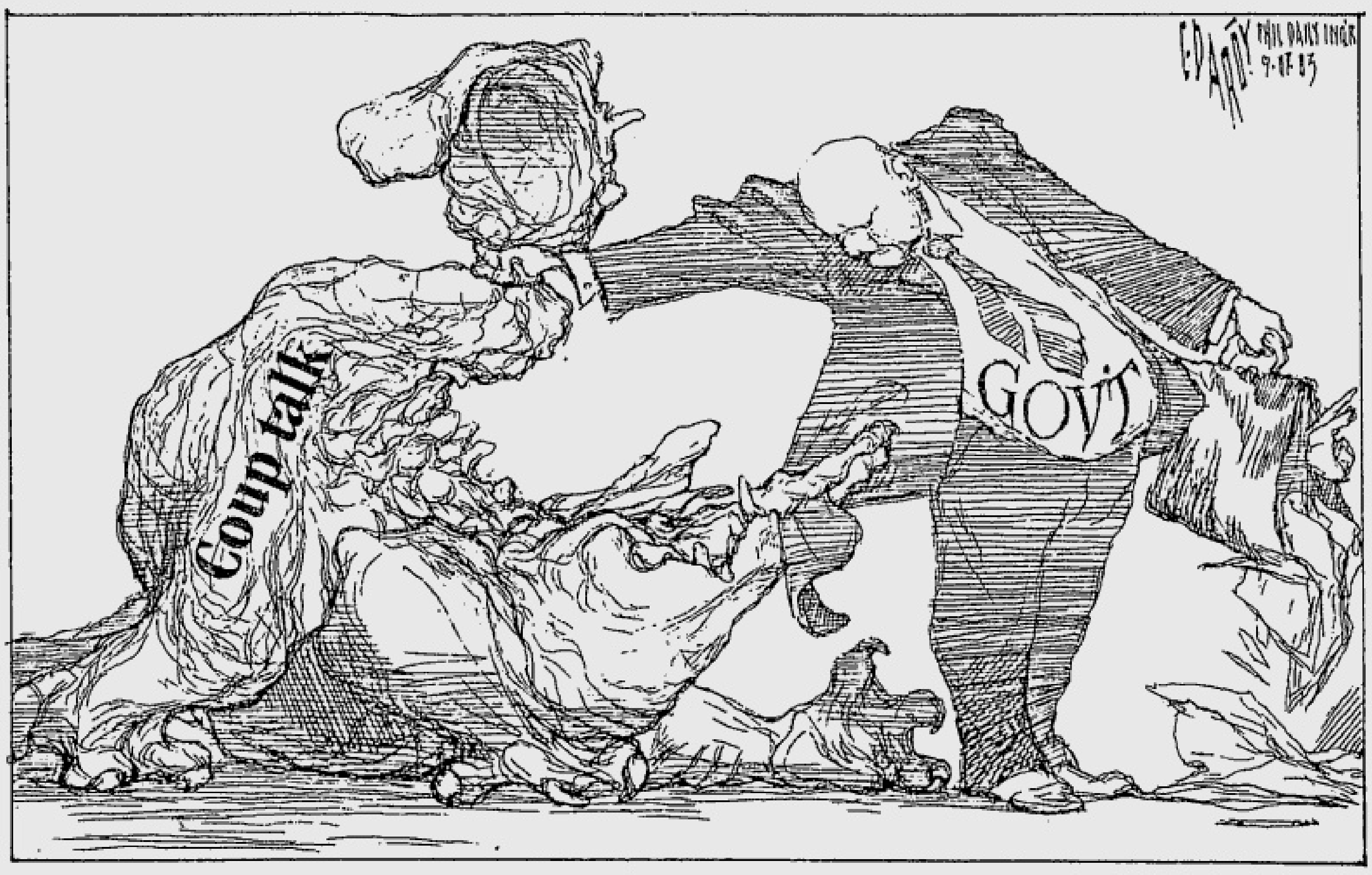


A hard saying

EDITORIAL

IN HIS open letter to the Filipino people dated Aug. 28 but publicized only last week, Archbishop of Davao Fernando Capalla said his recent meetings with national leaders have forced him to an unhappy conclusion. The country, he said, may be approaching a "revolutionary situation."

To meet this confluence of "the massive forces that threaten our country today," Capalla suggested something equally revolutionary: "a radical change of hearts and minds, of attitudes and behavior." The reason is simple and stark. "There is no future for our country and our people without forgiveness," he said.

He called on the people to consider the words Pope John Paul II "addressed to the whole world" earlier this year: "There is no peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness."

Capalla, who assumes the presidency of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in December, described the Pope's statement as the "Christian formula for erecting a moral society." But he said he was under no illusions about how difficult the task was.

"This is a hard saying for Filipinos," he said, because Filipinos believe "that including forgiveness is to enfeeble the foundation of our legal system," and because "(we) Filipinos have lost the ability to forgive."

Capalla's challenge therefore—"Let our generation today be the first Filipinos to apply the moral power of forgiveness in solving our never-ending conflicts"—is an almost impossible one.

Almost, but not quite. Capalla drew attention to the shining example of post-apartheid South Africa, which used forgiveness "as the foundation (for) building a new nation out of the morass of hatred and violence." In the experience of the people Nelson Mandela led, lies hope for the Filipino nation.

In many ways, Capalla has called it right.

Without referring to the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and deposed President Joseph Estrada explicitly, the archbishop describes a national situation that has been shaped in large part by the almost palpable animosity of their followers, who have sullenly found themselves on the wrong side of history.

Think, for example, of the repeated attempts by people associated with the Estrada camp to stage another eruption of People Power, this time with a result more favorable to them. They are moved to do so not because an Edsa III will be an act of reparation (something good for the country), but an act of retaliation (something good for them, and for them alone).

But we must also point out the limitations of Capalla's proposed solution.

His assumption that Filipinos "run to the courts thinking that these are the only sources of justice" is misplaced. We may pay lip service to "legalisms," and we certainly know how to use the language of accusation and evidence, of guilt or acquittal. But in many other ways we are, if anything, a much too forgiving people.

In fact, the many attempts by the Marcoses and their allies to campaign for "reconciliation" is based on this cultural characteristic: that as a people we find it easy to forgive and forget.

We think that the Estrada camp's cynical philosophy of history—"weather-weather *lang 'yan*"—is, unfortunately, a more accurate reading of Filipino culture. Our culture finds justice, not so much in reward and punishment, but in the notion that the wheel of fate is round indeed, and that a change in fortune is only a matter of time.

What the country needs, in the here and now, is a stronger sense of accountability.

Democratic Rwanda?

FOREIGN COMMENT

PRESIDENT Paul Kagame's victory was certain in advance. Firstly, many Hutus support him because they can see how he has stabilized the country and boosted the economy.

And secondly, the man has a security apparatus that made it nearly impossible for any opposition figure to campaign for himself in the election. Opponents were intimidated and locked up.

If, as he always says, Kagame really intends to make Rwanda democratic, he must change his style of rule.

As long as there is no freedom of opinion, as long as political opponents are silenced and as long as he rules with a powerful police apparatus, his opponents will grow in number."

Sueddeutsche Zeitung (Munich, Germany)

The reluctant hinges of the bar

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THIS is the first Sunday of September and so, as in previous years, the bar candidates will be trooping to the La Salle University to take the examinations that will determine whether the portals of the legal profession will open to them "on reluctant hinges."

At the latest count, there will be 5,455 of them this year unless some of them withdraw at the last moment for various reasons, usually nervousness. They will forfeit their examination fee of P2,250 if they are taking the tests for the first time plus P200 per year if they are repeaters.

Those who stick it out will be examined in eight subjects, one in the morning and the second in the afternoon for four Sundays. The subjects are Political Law and International Law, Labor Law, Civil Law, Taxation, Commercial Law, Criminal Law, Remedial Law, and Legal Ethics and Practical Exercises.

The bar examinations are the culmination of at least nine years of study, including the bar review. A student may be admitted to a law college only if he has obtained a degree in a course where he has completed 18 units each in English and Social Sciences and 6 units each in Math and Pilipino.

In the better law schools, passing an entrance examination and interview is an additional condition. Selective admission is supplemented by selective retention, which denies re-enrollment to students who have not met the required academic standards of the school. Ten freshman sections, for example, are reduced to only one or two in the senior year because of the "weeding out" process that deports the "rejects" to the diploma mills.

During our time, bar examinees were not coddled as they are now. Law schools now give their reviewees pre-examination breakfast and noon lectures and even busing to the examination site. Undergraduates conduct bar operations to supply the candidates with the latest review materials, even hotel accommodations and also prayers.

When I went to my first examination in 1951, my whole family was asleep; they had wished me the best the night before. Now parents, spouses and their children, siblings, sweethearts and close friends wait the whole time outside while their candidates sweat it out inside. So do the students of the various schools with their streamers and cheering squads.

Completion of each examination is one worry less, unless the examinee frets about his answers. The end of the tests on the fourth Sunday afternoon is a release beyond compare—*parang nabunutan ng tinik*. It's time for celebration, whatever the results may bring some anxious months later.

If some candidates do not fare well in the examinations, it may not be their fault. It could be the examiners'. In 1998, the examiner in Political Law did not know the distinction between the budget and the general appropriations bill—something professors in the subject make it a point to emphasize. He also asked for the difference between *de jure* and *de facto* recognition of states when it should have been governments.

The present practice is to assign examiners to subjects they are not familiar with, on the theory that they will tend to be less strict. This is a mistake and should be corrected because the examinee may know more than the examiner. When I was on the Court, the examiners were identified to us only when we were deliberating on the examination results. It was too late then to raise objections to their competence.

The average passing percentage is around 25 percent, which may seem overly strict compared to earlier years. The basis is misleading, however, because it includes the flunkers and even the deadwood in previous examinations, who may constitute as many as 50 percent of the total number of examinees. If the basis were to be the number of examinees taking the test for the first time, the successful candidates would realistically increase their record to 50 percent.

For all their supposed importance, the bar examinations are only the initial test of the true lawyer. The real test is how he practices his profession. Many topnotchers have lived up to the promise of their grades; some have dishonored their distinction; still others have squandered their talents in obscurity. By contrast, some others who received indifferent scores in the bar examinations have become leading and even brilliant lawyers.

Of the top 10 in our 1951 batch, one became Chief Justice, another a congressman and provincial governor, another also a congressman, two others senior partners of top law offices, and still another a justice of the Supreme Court and columnist of the biggest newspaper in the land. Many others became successful practitioners and prominent businessmen.

My very best wishes to the present examinees who are biting the bullet this month to be admitted to the noble profession of the law. I usually avoid the word "noble" because of its lofty meaning, but I unhesitatingly use it to describe my calling, in which I take the highest pride. I dare say that if there had been a lawyer in the Garden of Eden, he might have secured a lighter sentence for Adam and Eve because of mitigating circumstances.

Listen, obey and share

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about an old man who was boasting about his new hearing aid. A friend asked him: "How much did you pay for it?" He replied, "Yesterday."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk 7, 31-37), Jesus made a deaf man hear. He also removed his speech impediment. We, too, need to be healed by the Lord for many of us can hear but refuse to hear; many of us can speak, but refuse to speak truly.

* * *

Listening to the Senate hearings, one gets the impression that there are many deaf people in our midst. Not only deaf but dumb people as well. Let us all pray for the gift of openness and honesty. Some people specialize in "selective hearing," i.e., hearing only what they want to hear. Likewise, there are people who specialize in "selective speaking" i.e., saying only what they want to say. When it comes to hearing and speaking, specialist *ka ba*?

* * *

How many times in your life have you refused to listen to God? How many times have you turned off your receivers so that you would not get to hear His word? If you look back, those were the times when you sinned and turned your back on Him. Maybe, those moments gave you temporary pleasure and fulfillment, but they led you to sadness and misery. Listen to God, and obey. If you don't, you will be sorry.

* * *

There's a story of a man who went to a hearing. Try as he might, the lawyer could not get any response from the man who refused to answer all the questions. Finally, the judge asked him why he refused to speak. His response? "Sir, I was told to go to a hearing. Nobody, told me that I will also be asked to speak."

* * *

It is not enough to hear God's word. Some of us hear it well and hear it a lot. The problem is that we do not obey it, and we also do not share it. We all should spread God's word by our deeds and by our words. We are all missionaries. God speaks to us through His word. He also speaks to us in simple moments. I believe in being reminded of God's presence and love in ordinary things or events in our everyday life. These are "contact prints." My spirituality is basically that of remembering and being reminded. All of us have moments with the divine. All we need is to "fine tune," and to be sensitive to the stirrings of grace in our daily lives.

* * *

Recently, God spoke to me in a powerful way when I visited Sorsogon, the diocese of my former professor in the seminary, the energetic Bishop Arturo Bastes, SVD. I had the privilege of meeting one of his priests, Father Frat, who lost both of his legs in a car accident last May 16. Fr. Frat Nepomuceno was on his way to a barrio Mass in his parish when it happened. He had alighted from a jeepney to help a woman with two children get off the vehicle. Just then, a speeding jeepney bumped him from behind. Immediately he lost one leg. The other had to be amputated later. In a flick, this young, active, athletic priest lost his ambulatory functions; but not his cheerful spirit. Talking to him, I could feel no trace of anger or bitterness. I was so edified with his obedience to God's will and for his openness to whatever mission still in store for him up ahead.

* * *

The world should hear more stories like Father Frat's, and much less of the trash and garbage we hear in the news. There are a lot of good people around, but we hardly hear of them, and often, we hardly speak of them. May we hear and speak more of the good and not the bad.

* * *

Tomorrow is the birthday of Mama Mary, a woman who listened and obeyed God's word, and a woman who spoke of God's wondrous deeds with her *magnificat*. You know what I am asking her on her birthday? That the Lord give us and our land good leaders and officials. That there be peace and progress in our country so that someday soon, there will be more joy in every Filipino home, more food in every Filipino table. I am praying that we be given leaders who really listen to the poverty and sufferings of our people, and who really speak the truth. Amen.

* * *

Sept. 8 is the Foundation of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). Our founder, Blessed Arnold Janssen, together with our first SVD missionary to China, will be canonized in Rome this Oct. 5. Like them, may we all become listeners of the Word, doers of the Word, and sharers of the Word.

* * *

Calling on all my fellow pilgrims, friends, acquaintances through the years, and you, dear reader, to join me on my 50th birthday in the "Concert for the Missions" to be performed for the benefit of Filipino missionaries abroad. Organized by fellow pilgrims headed by Ella Sanchez of Executive Resources and Nita Trofeo, the concert will be held at the Meralco Theatre on Oct. 1, 2003, 7 p.m. To be hosted by Boots Ansoñ Roa, it will feature friends like Christopher de Leon, Ivy Violan, Cocoy Laurel, Josephine Roces, Nolyn Cabahug, Iwi Laurel, John Lesaca, Jong Cuenco and Margo Gonzales; with the special participation of my brother Oscar Orbos and other special guests, like Fatima Soriano, the 10-year-old blind child who undergoes dialysis every day. The concert will be directed by Adrian Panganiban. For inquiries, please call: 721-7457/414-7044.

* * *

A Moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to listen to your Word, do your Word, and share you Word. Amen.

Micromanagement at the defense department

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ONE of the reported issues raised against former Defense Chief Angelo T. Reyes by the Oakwood mutineers and their political supporters, was his propensity to micromanage the Armed Forces, presumably to the detriment of the organization. I have tried to run down just what were some of the specifics in this particular complaint but they seem to have vanished into thin air as quickly as one can say "micromanagement."

At any rate, if the charge is true, Reyes is in good company when it comes to the issue of micromanagement.

Consider the following:

In the weeks prior to the start of Gulf War II, Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf, former Central Command (Centcom) chief who headed US forces in Gulf War I, decried US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's micromanaging of the war plan. "It appears that he disregards the Army... that he is the guy driving the train and everybody else better fall in line behind him—or else!", Schwarzkopf told the Washington Post.

This is how the war plan was conceived—When Gen. Tommy Franks, the Centcom chief, was asked to submit his plans for the invasion of Iraq, he informed Rumsfeld that he would need five divisions and five aircraft carriers to get the work done. This was in line with the Colin Powell doctrine that called for the use of overpowering force to make sure America would prevail. In his autobiography "My American Journey," Powell briefly outlined one of his warmaking rules, "Have a clear political objective and stick to it. Use all the force necessary and do not apologize for going in big if that is what it takes."

Rumsfeld however, favored a leaner and more flexible force and sent back the war plans of Franks two or three times directing the four-star general to reduce the required forces by half or even more. In the end, Rumsfeld had his way, with the invasion force consisting of the Army's Third Infantry Division, the Marines' First Expeditionary Force, and the 101st Air Assault Division for mobility. As preferred by Rumsfeld, more special forces were also used and the air and ground campaigns started almost simultaneously.

Consider how promotions have been made:

When Rumsfeld took over as defense chief, the US Army Chief of Staff was Gen. Eric Shinseki, a West Pointer of Japanese ancestry who was appointed by President Bill Clinton. Fourteen months before Shinseki's scheduled retirement, word was leaked as to who his successor would be, effectively making him a lame duck. According to an article by Peter J. Boyer in the New Yorker of June 30, 2003, Rumsfeld also began to ensure that the Army's top leadership comprised officers supportive of his "transformation" plans. Every general officer in line for a third or fourth star, had to pass through a screening process including two or more interviews with Rumsfeld or one of his top assistants. "When you're the secretary of defense and you personally interview everybody up for three and four stars, you politicize your general officer corps," a top Army official complained. "That's what they accused Clinton of doing. And now they're doing it. If you're asking general officers if they agree with political decisions, then you're not asking for the best professional military advice."

Consider the issue on the appropriate size of an occupation force in Iraq:

Before his retirement, Shinseki testified that maintaining peace in Iraq would require a force numbering several hundred thousand. Rumsfeld said Shinseki was "far off the mark." While various political leaders have raised the question, "Is America stretched thin?" the new US Army chief of staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, has carefully toed the Rumsfeld line that there are "sufficient forces to do the assigned missions." However, in his confirmation hearings last July, Schoomaker had been quoted as saying, "intuitively" he thought, "we need more people." His intuition changed after Rumsfeld expressed the view that Schoomaker's remarks were distorted.

So, is there something wrong with micromanaging any department? Every Cabinet member plays to a constituency of one, the President, and his continued stay really depends on whether he is considered an asset or a liability to the administration. His style of management is of little consequence. What brought Reyes down had nothing to do with management style or those other accusations of alleged wrongdoing. He, like Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus before him, was a knight who, in the eyes of the Palace spin doctors, had to be sacrificed in order to ease the pressure on the Queen. Now, it remains to be seen if this sacrifice will strengthen rather than weaken the President.

* * *

A number of names have been floated for the post of defense secretary currently being held by the Commander in Chief herself. I would have wanted to see the name of Renato C. Valencia, the Baron (First Captain) of PMA Class 1963 in the short list. Among the graduates of the PMA, there are very few who can match Valencia's record in financial management as well as his solid reputation for integrity. I recall his stint as administrator of the Social Security System (SSS) where he won a number of Asian Institute of Management (AIM)-sponsored management awards. Having left the service early in his career, he may need a bit more time to orient himself with the defense establishment but I don't see this as a serious handicap. It is true that considering the current situation, whoever is appointed must hit the ground running and this is probably the advantage of my good friend Ed Ermita. After retiring as vice chief of staff, AFP, he continued to serve in various capacities in defense-related assignments and so remains familiar with the problems and issues facing the Armed Forces.

Lending to the poor

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DRIVING down Sayre highway in Bukidnon, we swerved to the left and came to a stop in front of a stall filled with watermelons. Beside it was an open-sided hut, inside which a woman and some men were talking, slices of watermelon in front of them.

The woman, Lolita Magdua, welcomed us with a wide smile. In looks and manner, she didn't seem like someone even approaching middle-age, so when she told me that her oldest child was already 36 years old and has his own family, I was taken aback.

Only when she told us her story did I understand. Born to poor parents, she just finished Grade 2, she said, and married her husband Armando when she was just 13! They eked out a living, with Armando working as a tenant farmer while Lolita engaged in various income-generating activities, including the fruit stand, a *sari-sari* store and *ukay-ukay*, buying bundles of used clothes in Cagayan de Oro then peddling the items among her neighbors.

The Magduas have three children. "My dream was for them to finish school," says Lolita. All three did graduate from high school, but though one child managed to finish a year in college, none of them obtained a degree because they all married early. Lolita and Armando now have six grandchildren.

All through their married life, Lolita has been a partner not just at home but outside it as well. "We could not rely on my husband alone," she said, "we really needed to help each other." Asked if Armando did not resent her economic independence, she smiled and said she was blessed with a "very understanding husband" who did not lose his temper easily.

* * *

LOLITA is a beneficiary of Project Bulig, for the Barangay Unified Livelihood Investment through Grameen, of the Bukidnon Network of Home Industries Inc. (Binhi). Binhi is a program initiated by former congresswoman (now mayor of Manolo Fortich town) Socorro Acosta, and supported by her son, Rep. Neric Acosta, to "build-up capabilities, tap energies and the intelligence of unemployed youth and women" in the first district.

"Bulig" (the Visayan word for "help") replicates the Grameen Bank experience, an experiment in micro-credit finance that was originated in Bangladesh among the poorest women in the villages. Under the Grameen system, poor women are organized into groups that vouch for each other's trustworthiness and reliability and also ensure that each borrower does not default on her loans.

The record established by Bulig, as well as by other Grameen-based projects in the country, has proven that poor women are worthy credit risks. Mayor Acosta says that on average, Bulig beneficiaries have racked up an impressive repayment rate, rarely falling below 97 percent. "During drought or poor harvests, the rapayment rate drops, but only around 86 percent or so."

Lolita attests to how seriously the women take their obligation to repay their loans, as well as on the difference that the availability of credit has made on their lives.

* * *

AFTER SOME years of membership in her center or group, Lolita was able to establish a good enough credit record to access bigger loans.

At the moment, she is paying off a P20,000 loan, paying out P559 in monthly payments, and fully expects to complete payment by May next year.

"Nobody else wants to lend to us," Lolita said, pointing to her small store and fruit stand as if to explain why traditional sources of credit, like banks, would not think of her as credit worthy.

Indeed, by most measures, Lolita and Armando would not seem likely candidates. Despite her hard work and varied enterprises, she calculated her monthly average net income at P1,000, adding that it usually rises to about P6,000 around November and December.

But what value can one place on energy, drive and ambition?

To stock her fruit stand, for instance, she buys produce from her neighbors, but during off-season, she buys from wholesalers who source fruits from Iloilo and Davao. "This is the best business," she declares, "*walang utang* (nobody borrows)," because most of her buyers are motorists.

She is also "very careful," when it comes to maintaining her good credit standing. Her husband even reminds her "not to forget my obligation," though she is quite confident of paying off her present loan. Her goal is to eventually be able to access P50,000, to use as capital in a slaughterhouse business with her brother-in-law, a licensed butcher.

* * *

LENDING to the poor calls for adhering to certain principles:

- Trusting the poor
- Self-employment loan, not a dole-out
- Start small
- Self-sufficiency through savings
- Solidarity system

Certainly, Project *Bulig* has shown that lending to the poor reaps benefits not just in terms of personal growth and family security, but also in building stronger and more secure communities.

From just 25 beneficiaries in 1990, there are now 6,899. And from just one center in 1990, there are now 245. A total of nearly P80 million has also been disbursed in the last 13 years.

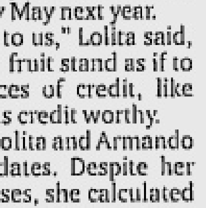
But more impressive than the growth in numbers is the amazing variety of businesses that the beneficiaries are engaged in. In the course of a day meeting with the Bulig partners, I met a couple marketing cut flowers, two families managing *sari-sari* and general merchandise stores, vendors of snacks and dried fish, a multi-cab driver and a spare parts dealer.

All of them had one thing in common: difficulty in accessing credit, without which they would not have been able to set up a business or expand beyond subsistence level. Thanks to programs like Bulig, they now have not just credit but also a reason to expect a better future.

Politics without limits

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



POLITICS is an inescapable element of collective life. In itself, it is neither good nor bad. All of us engage in politics when we seek to enhance our power or influence over others, or try to free ourselves from others' control over us.

In the life of nations, politics is a way of negotiating and reconciling competing social interests. When handled well, it allows the community to form a broad consensus on social goals and to find the best means for achieving these. Politics can be vicious and destructive. A nation needs to manage it so that it does not totally consume the energies of its citizens or provoke antagonisms that lead to a cycle of relentless violence. The first step toward this is the institutionalization of the rules of fair and acceptable competition.

Politicians are, for example, allowed to campaign only within a designated period. Minimum qualifications are set for those who intend to stand for elections. They must respect limitations on campaign contributions and expenditures. The use of violence and inflammatory language is expressly forbidden. Where values of fairness are strong in the culture, politics is ruled by basic decency, and politicians are effectively deterred from improper behavior. Where values are weak, politicians advance their interests by finding loopholes in the law and exploiting unfair advantage not foreseen by existing legislation.

In this sense, we do suffer, at present, not only from an excess of politics, but also from an erosion of political ethics. Non-stop political contestation creates in its wake a climate of permanent mobilization and agitation. Everything is politicized. Beyond this, the old rules of the game appear irrelevant, and everything seems permissible.

A great deal of the adventurism we see today in politics is made possible by the advent of modern mass media. With television, image replaces substance, innuendo is taken as proof, and media exposure substitutes for solid performance. When televised, judicial proceedings and congressional hearings acquire a new dimension that shapes the outcomes of these processes. This is a new terrain that politicians are mastering faster than society can find ways of preventing its abuse.

Where political authority is unsettled, government spends much time defending itself rather than doing what it is supposed to do—i.e., creating the conditions by which the nation can effectively achieve its goals. Yet, this is still preferable to banning politics altogether. In a fascist dictatorship, opposition does not fade away, it only goes underground and adopts other means.

The goal of every nation-state is to build a stable consensus on the kind of state that will best serve its citizens. When this is done successfully, politics becomes a routine way of allocating power to those who can offer the best and most feasible means of attaining the goals envisioned in the constitution. As in other former colonies, however, our problems begin from the fact that the rituals of electoral politics came ahead of any real agreement on the basic objectives of the Filipino nation-state. This has bred a series of insurgencies whose goal is not only to capture power but to change the form of the state itself and, ultimately, the manner in which society is to be organized.

The archetype of non-conventional politics is the armed communist movement. Yet, ironically, in the last 30 years, the most serious assaults on state authority have not come from the communist insurgents but from the armed forces of the state. In 1986, tired of being used as instrument of a corrupt dictatorship, a segment of the armed forces actively sought the overthrow of the Marcos regime. They failed, but their action triggered a peaceful popular uprising that unseated the government.

Again, in 2001, the leadership of the armed forces intervened in an ongoing political process by withdrawing support from the duly elected president and transferring it to his vice president, a prerogative they did not have under the law. What made these military interventions more acceptable than other forms of military adventurism, however, is that they did not produce military-led governments. But they inaugurated a new and risky form of politics that is inconsistent with the traditional role of the military in a democracy.

The July 27 Oakwood mutiny models itself after these benign modes of military intervention. Unfortunately for its leaders, the government survived the challenge, and now they must face the consequences of their adventurism. Yet, even as they are being prosecuted, they seem to have achieved a moral victory. They have forced the resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Isafp Chief Brigadier Gen. Victor Corpus. They have compelled the government to order an investigation of their complaints, and to release funds for the pressing needs of soldiers in the field.

The government survived its soldiers' mutiny, but it has not become stronger. The political opposition has pounced on this vulnerable moment by accusing the President's husband of corruption in order to further weaken her hold on political power. They want her to renounce her political ambitions once and for all, or her moral right to rule so completely eroded as to make her defeat in 2004 inevitable.

What we are seeing here is a curious blending of conventional and unconventional politics, a politics without limits. Its short-term costs are enormous. We can only hope it creates in the long term a stronger nation.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

Temptations of power

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE RECENT Pulse Asia survey on presidential aspirants is out. As before, the results of the survey are not very reassuring. On the one hand, Sen. Noli de Castro continues to be on the top spot and on the other hand, the rest of the presidential aspirants are the "usual suspects." The first betrays the low level of political sophistication or maturity among our voters, while the latter reveals the lack of new and dynamic leaders on our political landscape. In both, the question and problem of leadership emerges.

I teach the New Testament to second year students in the Ateneo de Manila high school. In recent days, we have been discussing the temptation experience of Jesus in the desert. I have underscored the fact that the experience was very much connected with Jesus Christ's mission. The gospels report that it happened after his baptism where John the Baptist introduced him as the "one who is to come," and just before the start of his public ministry. Biblical scholars point out that in the desert, Jesus reflected on the unfolding of his mission, in particular, the question that faced him was what kind of a messiah should he be. What kind of a leader must he be for Israel. At that time—and even now—there were prevailing ideas of what a messiah or a leader should be.

The first temptation was for Christ to turn the stones into bread. Poverty was widespread during the time of Jesus. He himself was born poor. The logic offered by Satan, the tempter, was reasonable. If you want people to follow you, solve the problem of hunger and poverty. Put food on their table. Today, we hear the same slogan: "It's the economy, stupid!" And many a presidential candidate or would-be leader of this country presents himself as an economic expert, one who would turn the sagging national economy around. But Jesus' response to this temptation was deep and insightful: "Man does not live by bread alone." It's not just about the economy. Man is more than his material needs. He is body but more importantly, spirit. He searches for meaning and purpose in his life. This spiritual hunger is much more important. To be a real leader to his people, Christ discerned, is to provide for this spiritual need. To be a real leader is to provide your people with a real vision, a real sense of purpose and direction. In the present crop of presidential aspirants, who can really provide a compelling vision that could unite this country?

Failing in his first, Satan now brings Jesus to the parapet of the Temple in Jerusalem and tells him to throw himself down from the temple so that angels would come and save him. This little show of divine power then would make people realize that he was special. It could boost his popularity and henceforth his following. Satan's argument is once again very reasonable. The surest way to the top is through fame and popularity. People especially in this country are suckers for the famous and the popular. That is how Estrada became president. And that is why a popular movie star and a famous newscaster-turned-senator are continually being egged on by partisan groups to run for president. This is also the reason why two senators who are running for the top two positions in the 2004 elections are trying to hog the media spotlights. As so often observed in this country, our politics is not about issues but about personalities.

Again, Jesus did not fall for this bait. If God wanted him to be famous and popular, Jesus should not have been born in a stable but in a castle, as king. All throughout his life, Jesus embraced a life of humility and simplicity, not of glitter and glamour. Rather than frequenting the halls of power, he opted to stay in the margins. He ate, walked, served and lived with the poor. Who among the presidential aspirants now could claim such a life of simplicity and a life of humble, quiet service?

Finally, Satan drew out his last card and offered Jesus all the powers of the kingdoms of this world, with all their political and military might. Again the offer seemed logical and reasonable. That is the path the almighty United States is treading now with its global anti-terrorism campaign. That also has been the way of what we call "*trapo*" politics in this country with its customary use of guns, goons and their old and squeaking political machineries. That is also why a presidential aspirant—a former torturer—continues to present himself as the answer to the problem of criminality in this country. Might is right as the saying goes.

But Jesus rejected Satan's offer. For sure it was a very tempting offer. At that time the Jews were under the Roman Empire. Had Jesus demonstrated power to vanquish the Romans, all the Jews would have easily become his followers. "Worship only the Lord, your God," was Jesus' response to the devil. The only real power is that of God. What we recognize as power is fleeting. Has not history shown us again and again the fall of the powerful, the destruction of the mighty? The only really lasting power is that of God and those who have lived in His righteousness. How many among our presidential aspirants now have really demonstrated in their lives this righteousness?

Jesus rejected the temptations of the devil about the use o power, wealth and fame in his mission. He would go agains the prevailing notions of his time as to what a messiah should be. He would embrace a unique leadership style—one of simplicity, humility and righteousness—and a its core the commitment to serve: "I have come not to be served, but to serve."

In the early '70s, Robert K. Greenleaf popularized wha could probably sum up the kind of leadership style that Jesu exemplified. Greenleaf coined the term "servant-leadership," a concept and a philosophy which is now gaining ground and revolutionizing organizations and group around the world. Simply put, the concept means a leadership model that puts emphasis on service-serving people whether it be employees, customers, citizens, etc. In his classic essay, "The Servant as Leader," Greenleaf describes thi kind of leadership: "The servant-leader is servant first. Becoming a servant-leader begins with the natural feeling tha one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choic brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply differen from one who is leader first, perhaps because of the need t assuage an unusual power drive or to acquire material possessions... The difference manifests itself in the care take by the servant to make sure that other people's highest priority needs are being served. The best test is this: Do thos served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likel themselves to become servants? And what is the effect on th least privileged in society: will they benefit, or, at least, no be further deprived?"

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

What's the score on ampalaya row?

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

JUST as ampalaya-based food supplements are gaining wide acceptance among diabetics in the country, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit removed ampalaya (bitter melon or *Momordica charantia*) from the list of herbs that the Department of Health is promoting as "alternative, safe and effective medicines."

In a circular, Dayrit reclassified ampalaya from scientifically validated to folklorically validated medicinal plant in light of what he said was "lack of evidence on the clinical efficacy of ampalaya against diabetes mellitus."

He then urged government health personnel to stop endorsing ampalaya as an alternative treatment for diabetes mellitus.

His circular rejected the evidence that former Health Secretary Juan Flavier used in classifying ampalaya along with nine other medicinal plants as scientifically validated for use as alternative medicine.

Dayrit's circular is controversial because it came about allegedly because of lobbying by a pharmaceutical group made up mostly of multinational corporations, whose market share is being eroded by ampalaya-based products.

Barely four years after the first ampalaya supplement was launched, 15 brands of ampalaya pills and tea are now sold in the market. With yearly sales of at least P700 million, they now account for 26 percent of the market.

Some groups are questioning the basis that Dayrit used in issuing the circular. Settling the issue will require more clinical studies.

'The Alternative Medicine Act is undermined'

By Lito Abelarde
President of Herbcare Corp. and of the Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines, Inc.

No other herbal food supplement has received in such a short time the same level of acceptance from our country's doctors and consumers as those made from ampalaya. When our company launched in January 2000 the country's first BFAD-registered ampalaya food supplement under the brand name Charantia, we were very pleasantly surprised by the almost instant positive response of diabetics.

We attributed this to the aggressive information campaign of the Department of Health and the Philippine Institute for Traditional and Alternative Health Care about the 10 medicinal plants that the DOH classified in 1995 as scientifically validated for use as alternative medicine. One of the 10 medicinal plants is ampalaya, which is indicated for Type 2 diabetes.

With the continued active support of the DOH and PITAHC and their invitation for the private sector to develop and promote products from the 10 medicinal plants, more entrepreneurs responded. Many chose to produce ampalaya products like we did because of the bright export potential due to the exploding incidence of diabetes worldwide.

P700-million market

Today, barely 3-1/2 years from the launching of Charantia, there are 14 other branded ampalaya food supplements in the market with many of them already being sold to various export markets. The combined domestic sales of these brands for the 12-month period ending in March 2003 were estimated at P700 million. The combined domestic sales of insulin and oral hypoglycemic medicine for the same period were estimated at P1.9 billion. Ampalaya's share in the market niche for diabetics was a hefty 26 percent.

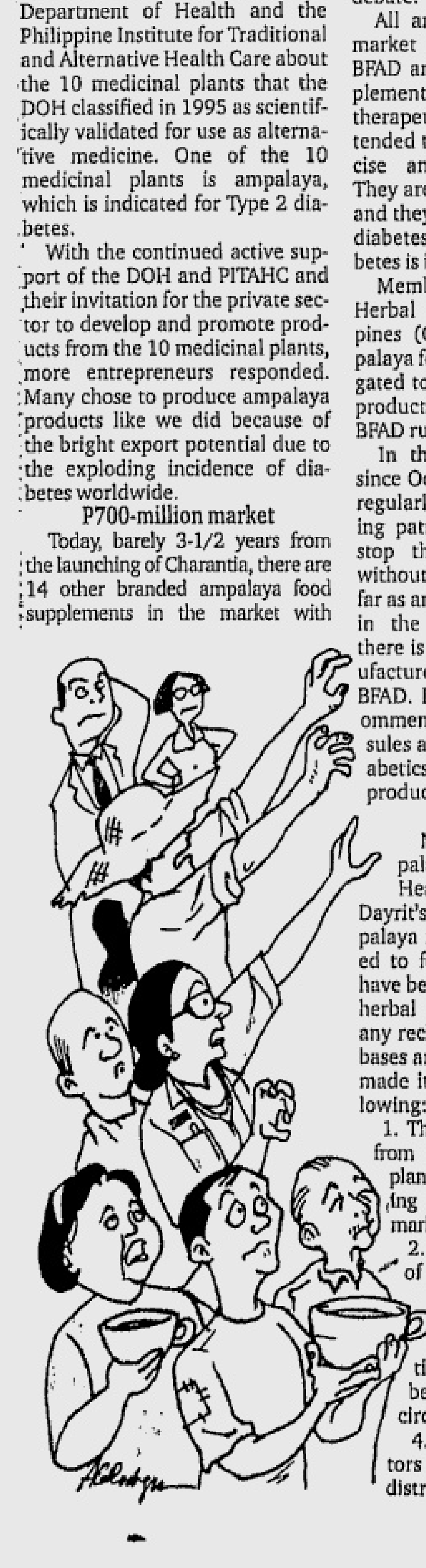
Export

On the export scene, ampalaya has become the banner herbal product of the country. It is paving the way for other herbal products to the export market and establishing the Philippines as a reliable source for herbal products. And then the problems began on the domestic front. But before I go into the controversy, let me first tackle the non-controversial issues, which have also been muddled because of the raging media debate.

All ampalaya products in the market that are registered with BFAD are registered as food supplements without any approved therapeutic claim. They are intended to reinforce the diet, exercise and primary medication. They are not alternative medicine and they absolutely cannot "cure" diabetes. Nothing can, for diabetes is incurable.

Members of the Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines (CHIPI), who market ampalaya food supplements, are obligated to promote their respective products strictly according to BFAD rules.

In the case of our company, since October 2002 we have even regularly placed print ads warning patrons of Charantia not to stop their primary medication without doctor's advice. Thus, as far as ampalaya food supplements in the market are concerned, there is no conflict between manufacturers and the DOH and BFAD. Doctors can continue recommending ampalaya tea or capsules as food supplement and diabetics can continue taking these products.



Ampalaya war

Now to the so-called "ampalaya war."

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit's reclassification of ampalaya from scientifically validated to folkloric should not really have been controversial. We in the herbal industry will not oppose any reclassification so long as the bases are clear and justified. What made it controversial are the following:

1. The singling out of ampalaya from among the 10 medicinal plants when ampalaya was making significant inroads into the market for diabetics;
2. The timing of the issuance of the circular coincided with the attacks on the ampalaya by some doctors;
3. The lack of consultation with the stakeholders before this very important circular was issued;
4. The fact that the detractors of ampalaya were already distributing copies of the circular before the scientific community and even PITAHC knew about it;
5. Dayrit did not show any new medical evidence negative to ampalaya that could override whatever medical evidence then Health Secretary Juan Flavier used as basis for classification of the 10 medicinal plants as scientifically validated for use as alternative medicine.

These factors were aggravated by Dayrit's delay in meeting with various stakeholders who requested as early as Aug. 4 clarification of the circular and of the circumstances surrounding its issuance.

Lobby group

The controversy heightened when the involvement of the pharmaceutical lobby group in the issuance of Dayrit's circular became a fact. We got hold of a copy of a circular of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) dated Aug. 5 saying that "as a result of our representation"...Dayrit reclassified ampalaya.

PHAP's hand in the attack on ampalaya is now viewed as a precursor to a concerted campaign to undermine the implementation of our country's national drug policy as set forth in the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act of 1997 or Republic Act No. 8423. This law authored by Sen. Juan Flavier made it a national policy to develop traditional and alternative medicine as a way of meeting our people's need for safe, effective and affordable alternative medicinal products. It is obvious that the success of this national policy will tremendously benefit our people but will not be appreciated by pharmaceutical companies, which will lose market share.

'Stop endorsing ampalaya'

By Manuel M. Dayrit, MD
Secretary of Health

In accordance with more recent developments, ampalaya is hereby reclassified from scientifically validated herbal medicinal plant to folklorically validated herbal medicinal plant.

Department Circular No. 168-A s. 1995 is accordingly modified and/or revised to the extent as herein provided. The reclassification is instituted in the light of lack of evidence on the clinical efficacy of ampalaya against diabetes mellitus. The information generated from studies of ampalaya has been based on animal studies and a few small studies on humans with diabetes mellitus. These studies showed a significant decrease in blood sugar concentration and improvement in glucose tolerance.

A local open-label crossover study, which enrolled 27 subjects, showed a significant decrease in HBA1C, but not of fasting blood glucose. Due to sample size limitations and open nature of the study, the findings have not been able to establish ampalaya as truly beneficial and even as adjunctive treatment to diabetes mellitus. To date, no large clinical trial has yet been published on any type of preparation of *Momordica charantia*.

Pending further investigation, all concerned are strongly advised to discontinue any endorsement of ampalaya as an alternative treatment for diabetes mellitus.

For guidance and immediate compliance.

(Circular issued by Dayrit on June 23.)

'Dayrit has no valid reason'

By Celia Taganas Layus, MD
Representative, Cagayan, 2nd D.

There is a raging controversy over the herb bitter melon, otherwise known as our lowly but nutritious ampalaya. The controversy involves the efficacy of ampalaya as an alternative treatment for diabetes.

There is a raging controversy in the way ampalaya-based medicinal products have been downgraded when Filipino producers and the public have created a multimillion peso market for ampalaya medicinal products.

There is a raging controversy because Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit appears to have substituted his better judgment with the opinion of the association of pharmaceutical companies. In doing so, he has negated 10 years of research by the National Integrated Research Program on Medicinal Plants. At the same time, he may be guilty of surrendering to the dictates of an association that is dominated by multinational drug corporations.

He may also be guilty of undermining Filipino companies engaged in alternative medicine and food supplements.

In effect, what Dayrit is saying is that all the previous health secretaries—Juan Flavier, who is now President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Jaime Galvez Tan, a leading medical practitioner—were principals of a conspiracy to promote ampalaya as a medicinal herb.

In claiming that there is lack of evidence about the clinical efficacy of ampalaya in the treatment of diabetes mellitus, the good secretary ignores volumes of scientific studies that validated the inclusion of ampalaya as one of 10 Philippine herbs to be studied, utilized, and promoted by the health department as "alternative, safe and effective medicines. (DOH Circular No. 168-A series of 1995).

His action has created turmoil in government efforts to promote herbal medications.

Abuse of authority

As a consequence, two major organizations are questioning the circular. The Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines and the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines believe that Dayrit's actions are anti-poor and constitute a grave abuse of authority.

It is apparent that Dayrit's reckless circular is not a product of new research. The general and confused premises of this circular, in fact, tend to betray that it may be the product of a knee-jerk reaction, that perhaps it is the product of intense pressure brought about possibly by a powerful lobby of the pharmaceutical industry.

What is beyond debate is that the whimsical action of Dayrit has inflicted grave damage on our national drug policy.

Dayrit has, with a single stroke of his pen, placed in peril millions of pesos in investments of Filipino scientists and businessmen. All along, during these past 10 years, the DOH policy was to encourage domestic investors and entrepreneurs to expand their portfolio in the development and production of herbal medicines.

This serious action was taken by the secretary without consultations with the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care. He also did not deem it appropriate to advise the Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines Inc. prior to the release of this circular.

We have information on the personalities and groups that allegedly lobbied for this particular action by the health secretary.

One of the principal personalities in this lobby group is a respected physician, who endorsed ampalaya in a scientific paper published in the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine. In the July-August issue of this journal, this medical practitioner wrote, "ampalaya fruit prepared as tea can be useful dietary adjunct in the treatment of diabetes."

We must try to establish exactly why there are certain groups, which are actively undermining our national policy to promote herbal medicine.

For the benefit of Dayrit and those who accept his circular, we must emphasize that the Filipino people do not need a health secretary or a scientific institute to "folklorically validate" herbal plants. The historical fact is that our forefathers and *arbularyo* in our barangays have been validating these herbal plant species for their medicinal values since time immemorial—without any cost to the taxpayers.

(Excerpts from a speech by Layus)

'We did not influence the experts'

By Leo P. Wassmer Jr.
Executive vice president and CEO, Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP)

Medical directors of PHAP member-companies brought to our attention advertisements of ampalaya-based products that contain therapeutic claims and suggested that we communicate with BFAD to inquire if those claims are supported by clinical studies as required by DOH Administrative Order No. 65, s. 1989.

In our communication to BFAD, we mentioned that some of these products, despite being classified as food supplements, are advertised with therapeutic claims. We then inquired whether or not companies advertising these products have conducted clinical studies with results that support the claims.

We categorically deny insinuations that we influenced the four groups of diabetes experts to issue position papers advising patients that they do not recommend ampalaya as part of the standard treatment for diabetes. We acted independently without any knowledge of what these medical experts did.

PHAP does not oppose the promotion of ampalaya-based products and other herbal preparations as food supplements. We maintain the position that therapeutic claims should be supported by valid clinical studies.

NBI lends credence to arrest of killer

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has lent credence to the arrest of suspect Senando Palumbarit for the killing of broadcaster Noel Villarante in Laguna.

In a statement, the NBI said the sketch of the gunman by one of the bureau's artists has led to Palumbarit's arrest in late August.

The NBI had provided the sketch to the Philippine National Police Office in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

DzIV broadcaster Villarante was gunned down on Aug. 19 in front of his house in Sta. Cruz.

Police have said the sketch clearly resembles the gunman. Palumbarit was later invited for questioning and subsequently placed under arrest.

But newsmen in Laguna have questioned Palumbarit's arrest, saying he was only a fall guy.

Palumbarit himself was very emotional when presented before the media after his arrest, vehemently denying involvement in the slaying of the hard-hitting journalist.

Some Laguna journalists vowed to take all efforts to get justice for Villarante.

DENR wants Luzon waste in Tarlac landfill

TARLAC CITY—No less than Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun is taking the lead in persuading the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Tarlac to allow the 100-hectare sanitary landfill in Capas town to accept waste from various areas in Luzon.

The provincial board had previously allowed the Clark sanitary landfill in Barangay Cut-Cut II to operate on several conditions, one of which was that only "residual waste" from Tarlac and the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) would be allowed to be dumped there.

Gozun wrote the provincial board to endorse the request of the management of the Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. (MCWMC), which owns the sanitary landfill, to "allow the neighboring cities/municipalities to utilize the (landfill) as disposal (site) of their residual wastes."

Gozun, on Sept. 4, also attended a public hearing of the provincial board's committee on environmental protection and natural resources and asked the board to act on the waste management firm's request.

In a resolution issued in April, the Gozun-chaired National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) said that, during the first three months of the sanitary landfill's operations, it had received only about 100 metric tons of waste a day.

Thus, the resolution said, the operations of the MCWMC "will no longer be viable with the present volume of waste they are receiving."

As a result of representations made by MCWMC, the commission gave its word that it would ask the provincial government of Tarlac to receive waste from sources other than Tarlac and the CSEZ.

During the Sept. 4 hearing, Gozun described the landfill as "the first fully engineered sanitary landfill" in the Philippines and "an environmentally sound facility."

She added that it would be a "tragedy" if the MCWMC went bankrupt because it was not getting enough waste to be cost-effective.

Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan, who earlier led Capas officials and residents in opposing the construction of the landfill facilities, did not object to the proposal. *Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Gensan's tuna fishers sail the rough seas

By Aquiles Zonio
General Santos City

AN ARRAY of blue marlin at the General Santos City Fish Port. AQUILES Z. ZONIO

Woe befalls the government for constantly ignoring the plight of the tuna handline fishers in this city. Unknown to many, they are the real catchers and producers of high-grade tuna.

But despite their number and contribution to the country's economy, they remain a marginalized sub-sector in the fishing industry.

Purse seiners do catch tuna, juvenile tuna especially. They dominate the fishing sector, to some extent even the rich fishing grounds here and abroad, but they are not producers of big tuna, a high-value marine product which earned for the city the title "Tuna Capital" of the Philippines.

Fishing, a P50-billion industry in the country, contributes about four percent to the country's gross national product.

The industry has an annual production volume of 2.4 million metric tons, directly providing livelihood and employment to over one million Filipinos.

The country ranks 7th among the top tuna producing countries in the world, be in terms of fresh, frozen or canned tuna. In 1999, the country's annual tuna exports earnings posted $137 million.

Handline fishing

"The big tuna industry is on the verge of death," warned Roger Lim, president of the Socsargen Tuna Handliners-Eco Fishing Cooperative (Sotuhefisco), an umbrella group of some 20,000 small tuna handline fishers with about 100,000 dependents.

Lim has spent 17 long years of his life in the fishing business. Purse seiners and handliners are two distinct sectors of the fishing industry, he stressed.

Handliners and purse seiners differ not just in practice or mode of operation, but also in terms of catch.

Purse seiners operate a horde of fishing vessels—mother boats, service or carrier boats and ranger boats—and maintain an array of fish aggregating devices or fish sanctuaries locally known as "unay" in the high seas.

They focus on catching juvenile tuna such as skip jack or *gulsayan* and frigate or *tulingan* using the net.

Juvenile tuna produced by the purse seiners end up at various canning plants where it is processed into canned tuna for export. Seven out of the country's 11 tuna canneries are located in the city.

The handliners concentrate on catching mature and big tuna-like yellow fin (albacora), big-eyed (tambakol) and blue marlin (malasugue). These are sold to local food processors, who processed them into fresh, frozen or smoked tuna.

Handliners have only two crucial demands: Stop the unfair competition posed by Taiwanese long-line fishers, and government support.

These demands if addressed would breathe new life into the dying big tuna industry, they say.

Woes

Handline fishing would collapse in two years unless government responds promptly and decisively to their demands.

Last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo gave P1 million to be lent out to small and medium tuna fishermen.

The government even made Lim a conduit for the program aimed at alleviating the miserable plight of poor fishermen.

What happened to the program? Just ask the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Department of Agriculture. Target beneficiaries failed to avail of the loan due to stringent requirements imposed by government banks.

In her speech during the 4th Tuna Congress held in this city in September last year, the President directed the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to work closely with the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) for the review and rationalization of the licensing requirements for tuna handliners.

Ms Macapagal even ordered her staff to submit a report on the action taken by the concerned government agencies within 30 days.

A year had passed, but nothing has been done to ease the procedures and requirements in the registration of tuna handline fishing boats.

Handline fishers had been asking the national government to scrap Fisheries Administrative Order No. 195 issued in 1999 by BFAR, which allows Taiwanese and other foreign fishing vessels to use the Davao Fish Port in Toril District, Davao City as transshipment point for their tuna catch.

The order twisted the real intent and meaning of Section 42 of the Fisheries Act, which clearly states that "foreign fishing vessels wishing to avail of land, air and sea facilities available in the Philippines to transport fishery products which are caught outside the Philippine territorial waters to its final destination shall call only at duly designated government-owned or controlled regional fish port complexes after securing clearance from the department."

Only a congressional act could amend any provision of the 1998 Fisheries Act, not a mere administrative order from a bureau of an agriculture department.

A HANDLINE tuna fisher prepares to board his boat. AQUILES Z. ZONIO

FAO 195 allows dumping of non-exportable tuna to the local market, fish canneries and processing plants.

As a result, local markets in the cities of Davao and General Santos were flooded with non-export grade tuna, to the detriment of the tuna handliners.

In 1999, Romeo Baldado, chief of the Fishery Regulation Section of BFAR's regional office in Davao City, sent a report to BFAR main office in Quezon City, recommending not just the apprehension but also the filing of charges in court against the Taiwanese long-line fishers.

In the same report, Baldado claimed that the entry of Taiwanese fishing vessels to Davao Fish Port without recognition and clearance from the agriculture department is a violation of sections 42 and 87 of the fisheries code.

Until now, Taiwanese fishers continue to poach and violate laws, while the handline fishers continue to suffer from government's neglect and apathy.

Uneven playing field

The entry of Taiwanese long-line fishers into the scene created an uneven playing field for the local tuna producers.

The Department of Agriculture and BFAR cited inadequate supply of tuna as among other reasons for allowing the foreign fishers to come in.

There's more to such excuses than meet's the eye. Never mind if the Taiwanese fishers are equipped with modern fishing boats and gears, let alone subsidy coming from their own government.

Known for their sturdiness, knack and resourcefulness, Filipino fishermen could stand up to the challenge. They could survive the cut-throat competition. But allowing the foreign fishers to use Davao Fish Port as transshipment point then letting them drop off non-export quality tuna in the local market is a kiss of death for our local tuna fishers.

Why allow Taiwanese fishers to kill one of the country's major dollar earners?

What does the government get for pampering Taiwanese poachers? Nothing. Profits derived from their fishing operations are siphoned off to Taiwan.

Worse, a glut of non-exportable tuna in the local market paved the way for the emergence of the so-called processors and middlemen.

They are unnecessary burdens, if not, pain in the neck of the handline fishers. They dictate everything from pricing to classification, including terms of payment.

Sustainable

Efforts were exerted by fishery officials and representatives of fishing industries from various countries to conserve and sustain tuna and other marine resources.

Fish populations have been under siege due to rampant use of small-sized mesh, miles-long lines of baited hooks or bottom-scouring trawls and the advent of modern fishing technologies like sonar and satellite positioning systems, which allow fishing fleets to home in on pockets of abundance.

With all these modern technology, no place is left for marine creatures to go.

In their own modest way, handline fishers help conserve and sustain tuna resources by using passive and selective fishing gear.

Juvenile and baby tuna are spared, only the matured ones are being caught.

From children of war to children of peace

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Kidapawan City

SHE could not hold her tears back. After the first question was asked, Missy Gael Kirog became so emotional that her voice cracked. It revealed how much suffering she had gone through but had kept inside her all these years.

Kirog, 15, a Christian resident of a war-torn village of Pikit, North Cotabato, can be called a "child of war" having experienced three major evacuations since 1997. But Kirog, no matter how hard it was for her, wanted to prove one thing—that she could be a potent element in ending the Muslim-Christian conflict and in building peace in Mindanao.

Vivien Mulao, 17, is the second daughter of a known Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader who was killed in 1996. Her father, engineer Nelson Mulao, was killed after intense aerial bombardments by government soldiers in the Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation project in Carmen town. He was known as Kumander El Kobra.

Until recently, Mulao perceived the Christians as "enemies." Her anger grew more following the death of her father whom she adored most. They were left to the care of her mother who is a Cebuana and a teacher in their village in Carmen.

Kirog and Mulao are just two of the 44 members of a Muslim-Christian group called "Children of Peace." All the members of the group are children from conflict areas in Kabacan, Carmen, Pikit and Midsayap towns, all in North Cotabato.

Suspicious

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the idea of "Children of Peace" came about following the efforts of the provincial government to "unite" the people of the province.

"Muslims and Christians look at each other with suspicion. They do not trust each other. We have to remedy this situation," Piñol said.

"These children have seen the face of terror. These children have seen the cruelty of war. But now, they understand that there is really nothing to quarrel about," Piñol added.

Kirog said she used to think that her Muslim classmates in Takepan were the "bad guys."

"I thought that they should be blamed in all of these unrest. I thought that they [were] unworthy of my trust. Although I [knew] some Muslims at school, I never really dared to befriend them," Kirog said.

This feeling continued as Kirog experienced three evacuations, the most recent of which was when the government initiated a war against the MILF in Pikit last February.

But Kirog said the most difficult evacuation that her family experienced was in 2000. That war led to the fall of MILF's biggest camp in Maguindanao, Camp Abubakar.

"Some civilians said the enemies were nearing so we had to rush and leave at 8 p.m. We left behind some of our valuables. That war had haunted me until now. At night I would wake up with nightmares. The gunfire and bomb explosions reverberates and seems so recent," she said.

In all of these, Kirog said, she would just cry.

YOUTH for peace advocacy, peace education and confidence building program. BING GONZALES

"And I'm crying now because of that feeling that I can't explain," Kirog said between sobs.

Attacks

In 1998, there were three MILF camps in North Cotabato. Piñol said during that year, the province was confronted with a spate of kidnappings, attacks, harassments and bombings on civilian populated places.

Because of this, he said, the government implemented some measures "to arrest the situation."

"First we tried to regain people's trust and confidence in the government by implementing the Task Force Manhunt where all warrants of arrest were served by our policemen. This showed that the government could enforce the law. Second, we implemented rural infrastructure projects—roads, livelihood and everything the people needed," he narrated.

In 1999, Piñol said, because of the worsening peace and order situation in the province, the province of Cotabato urged the government to act on the MILF issue in a manifesto titled "it's time to end the madness."

This came following the abduction of about 100 elementary pupils of Barangay Katimpilan, Midsayap, he said. "What followed was a bloody saga in the history of the province of Cotabato," he added.

On Monday, during the 89th founding anniversary celebration of the province, Piñol presented the children of peace and tagged the move as part of their "efforts to built bridges that will connect our people's hearts."

"We believe that the population of the province today are victims of prejudice and bias and there is a need to develop a generation of people who will later on would become the leaders of these province," Piñol said.

The commitment, he said, is to produce a new generation of people who understand that it is only in living together in unity and harmony that a developed community can be built.

Piñol, who is known for his antiMILF stand, said "unless we do something today, they (the children of peace) may end up seeing a divided province."

The program is funded by the provincial government, with the support of North Cotabato Jaycees, Cebu Jaycees and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Healing

The children were brought to Cebu City last July for a seminar workshop that turned out to be a venue of "healing" for the participants.

"These children hardly understand each other. Had we allow them to grow separately from each other, we would have produced a new generation of people who would refuse to understand each other," Piñol said.

"In Cebu, they lived together for one week. They ate together, played together and prayed together. And more importantly, they learned more about each other. Then, they discovered that there was nothing to quarrel about. They embraced each other and said they should be children of peace," he added.

The experience, the governor added, allowed the children to see for themselves the blessings of a peaceful city. The governor said that another batch of 44 children will be considered again for the same program.

This time, he said, the program would be funded by the government of Saudi Arabia. He added that even the United States Institute for Peace is willing to support the program.

Mulao, who wants to be a teacher, said they were given the opportunity to re-echo their Cebu experience to their classmates and schoolmates after the trip.

"I think through this effort we can somehow enlighten other people's hearts and minds that the problem in Mindanao can never be solved using arms. We had enough of this war. Please, we are begging you, stop the war," Mulao said.

During the workshop in Cebu, Mulao said, she learned to value the belief of the Christians. That merely not respecting each other's beliefs could start a war, she said.

The experience, she added, gave her the chance to "socialize."

Cory: Protect democracy

From page A1

the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police were solidly behind her government, and that any effort to create anarchy in the streets would meet the full force of the law.

"The march for reform will be decisive and irreversible," the President said.

"The entire chain of command is behind us and there's no turning back in the type of positive change in the military organization, in the civilian bureaucracy and the entire nation," she added.

Civil society

Aquino was the guest speaker at the gathering called *Pagtitipon para sa Pagtatanggol ng Demokrasya* (Assembly to Save Democracy) organized by civil society groups such as the K1230 Movement.

Some 200 leaders from various nongovernment organizations, people's organizations and Church and business groups attended.

An organizer said the daylong forum was born of "widespread concern over the threats to democracy."

Joel Pagsanhan, national coordinator of the K1230 Movement, said they invited Aquino since she was an "icon of democracy."

In her opening remarks, Aquino acknowledged the worsening political situation.

She said that in the past couple of weeks she was "saddened" by the turn of events, citing the July 27 mutiny and the "Jose Pidal" secret account allegation against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

She quickly added though that she remains positive about the nation, citing the work of NGOs she gave "People Power People" awards to last month on the 20th death anniversary of her husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

"Democracy is really about helping the poor (and) depending on the strength of the people to help each other," said Aquino, who was dressed in her trademark yellow.

She also stressed the importance of having clean elections next year to strengthen the country's democracy.

She vowed to do her part by helping out the election watchdog group, the National Movement for Free Elections, or Namfrel, on a "personal basis."

She also reiterated that she would no longer endorse a presidential candidate.

She also shared her source of strength that enabled her to survive several coup d'états.

"We resorted to prayers and prayers saved us," she said.

Strong Republic

In her radio message, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she will not allow any group to derail her vision of establishing a "strong republic." At the same time, she thanked the people for their continued faith in her administration, adding that this outpouring of public support has inspired her to work harder despite destabilization efforts by a "desperate few."

She also impressed upon the military and the police the principles that would guide her six-month stay as concurrent defense secretary.

"I see my dual role as a means of leading a quick consolidation process. By consolidation, I mean the strengthening of the chain of command, the rationalization of resources and the sharpening of the will to fight," she said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President was fully convinced that the coup threat has diminished.

However, he said, the Presidential Security Group has remained on high alert, particularly during the President's provincial sorties. *With a report from AFP*

In times of empty noise…

From page A1

"It is the noise of a mob who wants to rule, to gain power by all means," the church leader said.

There is also another kind of noise, Villegas pointed out, and this is the "deadly" noise of violence, the kind that snuffs out life.

"Brothers and sisters, it is the time to be silent, not in anger or hostility, not in repression or oppression. It is time to be silent and to act. To have our actions speak louder than words. Or maybe, just to have our actions speak, period," he said.

"It is time for our senators, congressmen, government officials, to act in behalf of the good of the people they have been sworn to serve. It is time for media to report on actions and not conjectures and accusations, and to do so in a fair and responsible manner. It is time for us in the Church to listen more, be with our flock more, to walk with them in silence in our journey of faith," he added.

The remarks came amid the ongoing controversy started by Sen. Panfilo Lacson's money-laundering accusations against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The allegation is being investigated by the Senate's blue ribbon committee.

Lacson's accusations came a month after military rebels staged the Oakwood mutiny. Subsequently, reports about attempts to recruit soldiers and their officers for another coup attempt have circulated.

According to Villegas, silence could have different meanings, good or bad.

During Martial Law, he said, there was an oppressive silence and this was countered by the populace who screamed, shouted, sang, honked their horns and rang church bells to "break through the wall of silence" that kept the people "imprisoned in fear and uncertainty."

"It is time for silence, a ceasefire on deadly and oppressive noise, on mudslinging, dirt-throwing noise. It is time to stop talking and start working with purposeful and dedicated silence, unmindful of accolades and recognitions, not seeking popularity and fame," he said.

"It is my prayer in this mass and in the days to come that our campaign for silence and for working in silence will strike a chord in your hearts, in the hearts of our leaders, in the hearts of all citizens of our troubled, confused, divided country and that it will lead us to speak through our actions, to teach with our lives and to make a difference with our silence."

Yesterday, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel echoed the call for an end to mudslinging but he pointed out the need for the parties pursuing a political summit to define at the very outset what is "political bickering."

At the Sulo Hotel media forum, Pimentel said participants in the summit might as well try drawing the line between legitimate fiscalizing and plain mudslinging.

"How about Senator Serge Osmeña's pursuit of the (money laundering) issue against (former Justice Secretary) Nani Perez. Is that political bickering?" he asked.

"Please don't dismiss everything as political bickering. Otherwise, what's the use of having an opposition (in Congress) if we just clam our mouths?" he stressed.

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Coverage

The following accounts are covered by the RRRP:
a Individual Real Estate Loan (IREL) accounts.
b Deed of Conditional Sale (DCS) accounts:
c. Bahay Ko (BKP) accounts; and
d Lease Purchase Accounts of individual members

The following accounts are not covered by the RRRP:
a Fully paid IREL, DCS and BKP accounts;
b DCS accounts resulting from sale of acquired assets; and
c Foreclosed/cancelled accounts

Terms and Conditions on RRRP

Condonation of Penalties and Surcharges
a. For IREL and DCS/Lease Purchase Accounts. All penalties and surcharges previously imposed shall be condoned.
b. For BKP Accounts. All surcharges previously imposed shall be condoned. Penalties, which is in the form of additional interest and integrated therein, shall not be condoned.
c. For previously Restructured Accounts. All penalties and surcharges previously imposed from the date of last restructuring shall be condoned, except RA 8501

Minimum Payment Requirement
a. Up-to-date accounts and Non-Delinquent Accounts. No downpayment required. If the borrower wants to reduce the balance to further lower the interest rate payment must be made within the month of application
b. Accounts in Default. At least ten percent (10%) of the outstanding balance net of penalties and surcharges which must be made within the month of application

In the event the 10% downpayment is not completed within the month of application, said payment shall be applied as regular payment and application shall be cancelled. In the event borrower re-applies, he will be required to put up another 10% of the outstanding balance net of penalties and surcharges as of the month of application.

Restructured Balance.
The amount to be restructured shall be the outstanding balance net of penalties/surcharges condoned and downpayment, if any.

Effectivity Date of Restructured Account.
a. Up-to-date Accounts and Non-delinquent Accounts. The first amortization shall be due on the month of application
b. Accounts In Default. The first amortization shall be due at the end of the month following the month of application

Terms of Payment

The borrower shall have the following options for the term of payment.
a Remaining term
b Any year from one to fifteen as may be opted by the borrower, which ever is longer.

Interest Rate

For members	Interest Rate
P 180,000.00 and below	8%
P 180,000.01 to P300,000	10%
P 300,000 and above	12%
For non-members	
-above rates	+2%

Repayment Scheme.
a. For active members as principal borrower - salary deduction. Any deficiency shall be covered by salary deduction from a co-maker(s) and/or issuance of twelve post dated checks covering the deficiency for the succeeding twelve months.
b. For non-members as principal borrower and co-maker — issuance of post dated checks.
c. Twelve post dated checks shall be prepared initially. Every anniversary of the loan, the borrower shall be required to submit the next twelve checks for the amortization for the following year and every year thereafter until the loan is fully paid

Sales/Mortgage Redemption Insurance (SRI/MRI)
a. Re-insurance of restructured accounts with lapsed SRI/MRI coverage(on original loan) shall be at the option of awardee / buyer of rights, subject to all existing Optional Life Insurance policies.
b. Restructured accounts which SRI / MRI did not lapse shall remain in force but only for the amount corresponding to the present value of the original loan. The difference between the restructured amount and present value may be insured but shall be subject to whatever actuarial adjustment there might be.

Penalties and Surcharges

Any unpaid amortization during the term of the restructured account shall be charged a penalty computed monthly using the table and as illustrated below:

Principal Loan	Penalty Rate
P180,000 and below	1/
P180,001 to P300,000	2/
Above P300,000	2/

1/ (0.50% x total arrearages) + (0.08% x principal balance)
2/ (0.50% x total arrearages) + (0.33% x principal balance)

Processing Fee

A processing fee shall be collected from the applicant for each account availing of this program, as follows.
a. Restructuring — P500.00 only
b Subrogation Fee — one half percent (1/2%) of the original loan

Subrogation of Rights

Application for subrogation / Transfer of Rights shall be processed and approved subject to the following requirements
1 Submission of the following:
a. Deed of Transfer of Rights;
b. Special Power of Attorney;
c Multiple subrogation/ transfer maybe allowed provided that all the corresponding contracts and other documentary requirements are presented to the GSIS for authentication;
d. Extra-judicial settlement and partition, if sale is after death of original borrower, to be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and an Affidavit of Publication.
e. Authentication of legal documents, if it is notarized abroad
2. The terms and conditions as described above.
3 Interest rates shall be as stated above

Restructuring Agreement

The restructured subrogated account shall be covered by a Supplemental Agreement embodying the terms and conditions of this program. The provisions of the original contract shall remain in full force, except as amended herein

Application Requirements

1. Application form duly accomplished and signed by any of the following
a. Principal borrower / awardee (including the co-makers if any)
b. Buyer of Rights/transferee
c Any duly authorized representative of the above
2. Latest payslip principal borrower / awardee/co-maker and or Buyer of rigths.
3. Valid Identification Card:
Passport Driver's License
SSS Company ID
Voter's ID Senior Citizen's ID
Others as may be determined by the GSIS
4. Commitment Letter to pay either by salary deduction issuance of post-dated checks or combination

Applications with incomplete requirements shall not be accepted

For further inquiries, please contact telephone numbers 8916150 or 891-6161 local 4335, 4226, 4229, 4030 or visit our website @ www.gsis.gov.ph or the nearest GSIS Branch Office.

Little Manila: Where Pinoy immigrant saga started

From page A1

A new round of city redevelopment threatens to raze the Emerald Restaurant, the boarded-up Rizal Social Hall and the Hotel Mariposa—remnants of an ethnic enclave that thrived from the 1920s until the 1970s.

The Little Manila Foundation led by 30-year-old Dawn Mabalon is fighting tooth and nail to salvage the three buildings, and then turn the site into a development that will feature affordable housing, a heritage museum and a cultural center.

The group is working with what Mabalon describes as a "socially conscious developer " to beat the city's Oct. 3 deadline to come up with its own proposal for the area.

Mabalon said financing for the project will come from tax credits, state bond money, low interest federal and state loans, grants, private sector investments and other sources.

Urban renewal in the 1960s already has obliterated much of the historic four-block village and its 500 or so establishments. The most recent city facelift razed stores and residence hotels in favor of a fast-food restaurant and a gasoline station.

Ironically, a more recent Filipino immigrant, a landscape architect from Union City, is one of the two men behind the Asian mall concept which does not include plans for preserving Little Manila. The plan proposes demolishing the three remaining buildings to make way for a parking lot.

"The Asian Mall was the first large project that was proposed for the area, so naturally the city jumped at the chance to raise tax revenue," Mabalon told the INQUIRER.

She accused city officials of playing various Asian groups against each other. The Asian mall is being touted as representing "all Asians against only Filipinos."

The authorities counter that the area's properties were affected by "substantial blight" which developers with a lot of cash were ready to correct with their wrecking ball.

Mabalon stressed that her group's proposal was multi-ethnic and multi-cultural and would ensure that the diverse residents of the area can stay and enjoy a revitalized neighborhood.

"We want the Chinese landmarks to stay here in the community. We want the Mexican market to stay. We want the Chinese family associations to stay. How can they say we are only interested in Filipinos?" she said.

Born in Stockton to parents from Numancia, Aklan, Mabalon is a lecturer at the San Francisco State University. She recently earned a doctorate from Stanford University. The topic of her dissertation was Little Manila.

The foundation that she heads is made up of young Filipino-Americans and their elders intent on preserving a precious remnant of their heritage.

"The foundation is a joint undertaking of a younger generation searching for its roots and of an older one trying to pass on its legacy before it's too late," Mabalon said.

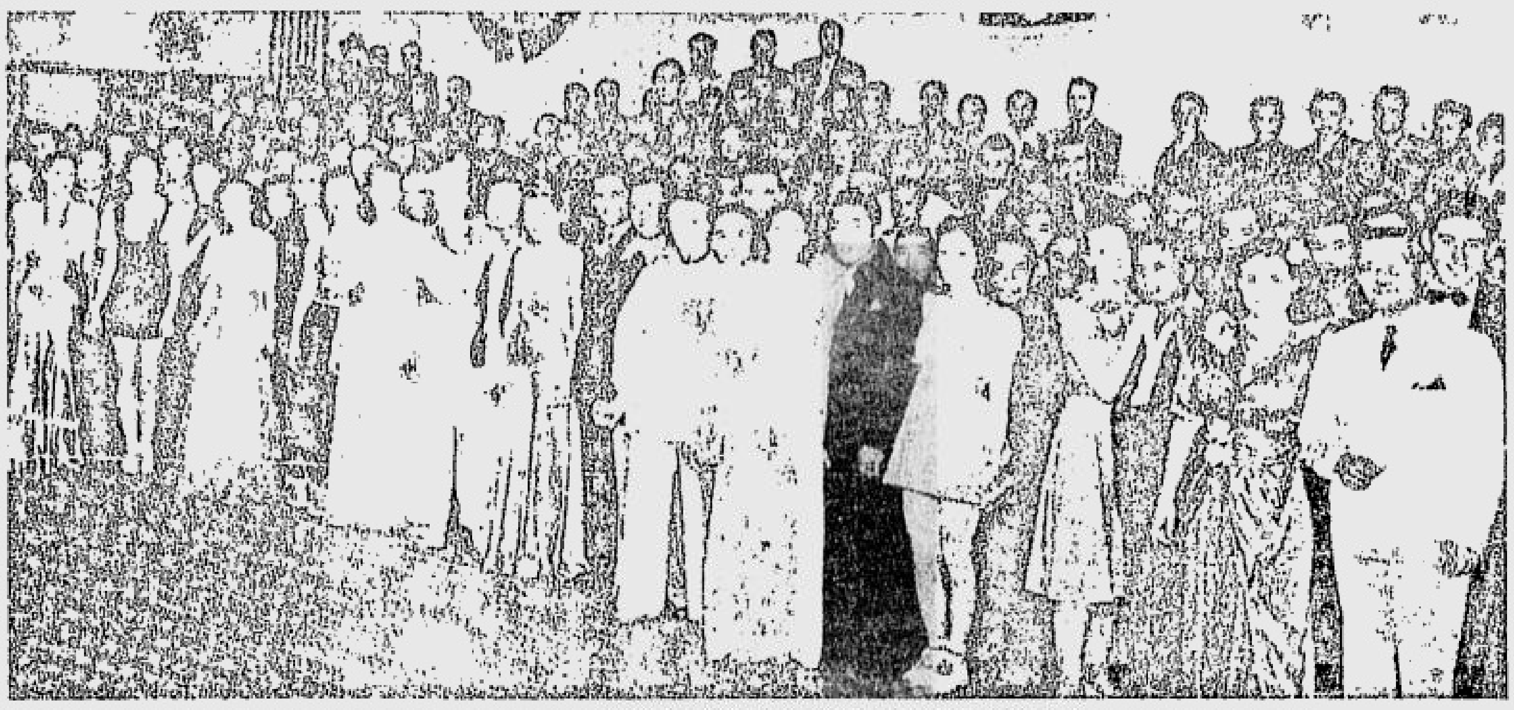
A film supporting the Little Manila movement called "A Game of Solitaire" reflects the old and the new preservationists.

Made by Filipino-American Dillon Delvo, the film depicts a Filipina who connects with her people's painful past by befriending a *manong*. Delvo is the son of a *manong* who married late because of the intense racism in the old days. When Delvo was just five years old, his father was 68.

For Mabalon, the fight for Little Manila is more personal. Her grandfather, Lolo Ambo (Pablo Mabalon) was proprietor and cook of the old Lafayette Lunch Counter which redevelopment has replaced with a McDonald's.

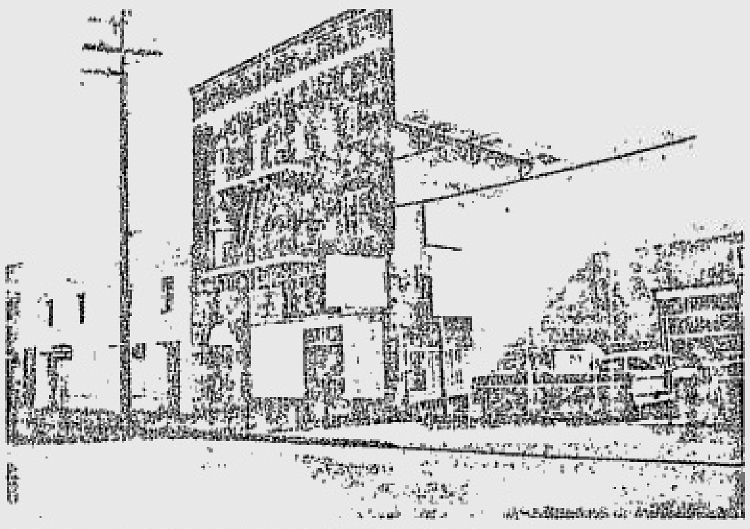
Among Lolo Ambo's more famous customers was the writer Carlos Bulosan who ran a long tab at the Lafayette. Since he was a struggling writer and labor organizer, Bulosan never had any money for food.

"My soft-hearted lolo could not bear to see Filipinos starve," Mabalon said.

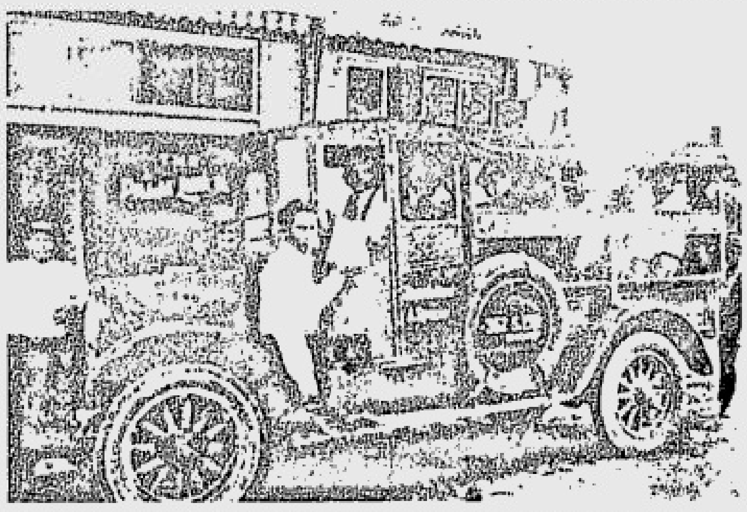


FOURTH OF JULY celebration in 1939 features costume contest at the Rizal Social Club on 138 E. Lafayette St. in Stockton.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LITTLE MANILA FOUNDATION/ FILIPINO AMERICAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE



MARIPOSA HOTEL: Little Manila Landmark



FILIPINO jobseekers hop aboard the Filipino Employment Agency

Lolo Ambo also allowed Bulosan to use the restaurant at 50 E. Lafayette St. as his mailing address, a gesture which the writer returned with a signed first edition of his book "America is in the Heart."

Mabalon's folks also told her that Carlos P. Romulo used to dine at the Lafayette Lunch Counter whenever he was in Stockton.

Lolo Ambo was among the *manong* who arrived in America in 1929 and roamed the West Coast, working in Alaskan canneries and asparagus fields in the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Central Valleys. They belong to the initial wave of migration that paved the way for the Filipino diaspora in America.

He had left behind in the Philippines his wife Isabel and five children, including Ernesto, Dawn's father. The old man spent 60 years petitioning for and finally reuniting his large family in the US. He died at 90 in Stockton in 1987.

Migrant Filipino workers who settled in Stockton formed community and social organizations and established businesses. The Rizal was a "taxi" dance hall and the Emerald was a general social hall used for union meetings, organization dances and movie screenings, among other activities.

"The community provided sanctuary for the tens of thousands of Filipinos faced with segregation," said the National Trust for Historic Preservation which has listed Little Manila among its 11 most endangered historic places for 2003.

Throughout the Depression era, there would be signs throughout Stockton that said "No Dogs and Filipinos Allowed," and laws that prevented marriage to whites.

Inspired by the National Trust listing, the History Channel television recently featured the struggle to save Little Manila.

The Little Manila movement has also been written about in the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News and the Record in Stockton.

With 11 queens, it's nice to be king

From page A1

day—many hoping to catch his eye and become his 12th queen.

A record 50,000 young women staged Swaziland's annual "Reed Dance," taking part in a traditional ceremony now seen as an audition to join Mswati's many wives.

The 35-year-old king, sub-Saharan Africa's last absolute monarch, now has 10 wives and one fiancee—a royal luxury that has drawn criticism as his small kingdom battles poverty and a raging AIDS epidemic.

Freak weather

The maidens, lined up in rows, wore only ropes of beads, wrap skirts and a rainbow of woolen tassels. They danced before the king for three hours.

But under a darkening sky, lightning crackled and balls of hail rained down, sending the girls, tourists, spectators, diplomats and royals scrambling for cover, abruptly ending the traditional reed dance for the first time in memory.

Some said the freak weather was a harbinger of good luck in this drought-stricken land. Others warned the ancestors must be angry.

"It's a blessing, a blessing," said one man as the rain-soaked crowds rushed past him, jumping over metal barriers and pushing their way toward canopy-covered stands.

But a woman, glancing around nervously so as to not be overheard, noted that word had spread among the crowd that lightning struck the royal cattle pen just moments before the king made his way to the ceremony. Cattle are prized as symbols of wealth and status in many southern African countries, including Swaziland.

The lightning, said the woman who did not want to be named, signified discord in the royal house and should be seen as a possible warning that the ancestors have been angered.

Dad had 70 wives

At the reed ceremony, girls present reeds to the queen mother to help in the symbolic rebuilding of the fence around her palace and then dance before both her and the king.

The king already has 11 wives but he can marry as often as he pleases.

Mswati's father, King Sobuza II, who died in 1982 after 60 years on the throne, had over 70 wives—although some say he had more than 100.

Before the ceremony, the girls combed each other's hair and experimented with lip liner and gold eye shadow. They giggled as they talked about who among them might become the next queen.

"I am tired of being poor. I want to be a queen. I hope the king sees me," said 17-year-old Nomsa Gama.

"I want a limousine, and a house like they give the queens. I want my children to go to school in England," said 14-year-old Phindile Thwala.

The dancers paraded around in military-style divisions before lining up shoulder-to-shoulder, swaying, singing songs and raising toy spoons and kitchen knives blunted with oranges on their ends.

'Flowers to be protected'

Mswati has balked at recent rising pressure from his subjects to introduce democratic reforms to the country. He has also been criticized for breaking his own ban on sexual relations with underage girls, by taking one as a recent wife.

The girls at Friday's abbreviated reed dance wore a tasseled scarf, the symbolic chastity belt the king has ordered all his young female subjects to wear.

Frustrated by the high rate of HIV infection in his country and describing teenage girls as "flowers that should be protected," the king announced the reinstatement of the traditional chastity rite of umchwasho in 2001 that bans sexual relations for unmarried girls under the age of 18.

Challenging authority

But observers noted that fewer girls each year seem to be attending the reed dance although, according to royal decree, all of Swaziland's so-called maidens—unmarried girls without children—are to participate.

To avoid the ceremony, some parents are known to take their daughters out of the country the week of the dance.

In an unusual challenge to royal authority, the mother of one of the girls selected as a future royal bride at last year's dance asked the High Court to force the royal family to release her then 18-year-old daughter from a royal guesthouse where she was living in anticipation of her wedding to the king.

Lindiwe Dlamini argued her daughter was taken away from the family without consultation. She later postponed the lawsuit, saying she thought she had little chance of winning.

The lawsuit, however, was considered a great scandal in Swaziland where royal traditions have, until recently, gone unquestioned.

No to polygamy

While there were girls who hoped they would be chosen by the king, others were keeping their fingers crossed that he would not notice them.

Eighteen-year-old Koshi Shongwe, holding a chipped off piece of mirror and lipgloss in one hand, said this reed dance, her third, would be her last—and hoped she wouldn't be chosen.

"I'm finishing school now and next year I will be busy," she said. "I don't want to be involved in a polygamous marriage. I want one husband and want him to have one wife."

Last month the palace announced that Mswati would marry the last of three girls chosen during last year's reed dance—a move seen as clearing the decks for more selections to be made this year. *Reuters, AP*

Ping's flight not good for Pidal probe—Pimentel

From page A1

quiry being conducted by the blue ribbon committee and two other Senate committees. He said Lacson had earlier asked to be allowed to travel to Sydney on Sept. 4-14.

Yesterday, Drilon said he would ask his colleagues after tomorrow's hearing to suspend the inquiry until after Lacson's return.

He said it would be unwise to continue the investigation if there were no documents to examine.

Lacson was earlier reported to have flown to Sydney to gather more evidence against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. Pimentel said, however, that "it might be too late in the day because the investigation is already ongoing."

But Pimentel clarified that he was not repeating or paraphrasing Arroyo's challenge last week to Lacson "to be a man," when a reporter suggested a parallelism.

He also declined to comment when another reporter asked him if he thought Lacson was just "using the Senate" to sustain the attacks on the President's husband.

Not scared

Fortun said Lacson was neither scared nor backing out from the fight he started when he delivered a privileged speech on Aug. 18.

He said he did not know what was going on in Manila but that Lacson phoned him early yesterday morning to consult him on certain legal aspects pertaining to the exposé.

"From the way we discussed the matter ... [he said] he has a lot of things in his possession [against Arroyo]," Fortun said. "I know about it because he consulted me with those items. I don't think he is less interested in what is going on in the Senate."

Fortun, however, refused to divulge the nature of the evidence, saying: "Senator Lacson does not disclose everything, even to his lawyer."

Asked about Lacson's whereabouts, he said he did not know because the senator called him through his mobile phone.

But he said he and Lacson were set to meet next week. "We will be meeting out of the country. But not in Europe ... someplace else," he said.

Drilon said that before the Senate inquiry could proceed, Lacson should first submit the original documents, or their photocopies, that he had cited.

"We are not asking for more than the documents that he showed us during the privileged speech," said Drilon, referring to the checks and bank statements of Jose Pidal, which, according to Lacson, is the assumed name of the President's husband.

"He should give us whatever he showed us in his Powerpoint presentation," Drilon added. "We were not even shown Xerox copies of these documents."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan is backing the proposed suspension of the inquiry.

"The allegations are money laundering, so we need to see checks or bank statements. Without these documents, how can we proceed in order to ferret out the truth?" he said.

He also said the testimony of Arroyo and Lacson's former star witness Eugenio Mahusay Jr. were "insufficient" and needed to be supported by documentary evidence.

Pangilinan pointed out that it was the opposition senators who had insisted on the hearing tomorrow.

"There was a request to hold it on Monday because some senators were leaving for Cancun, Mexico, for a roundtable World Trade Organization meeting," he said. "Now, after setting it for Monday, comes the news that Senator Lacson would not be around."

He said the opposition senators were sending mixed signals. "And we don't want the Senate or the blue ribbon committee to be held hostage and left in the dark. It's unfair to the committee and to the public," he added.

Candidate Pidal

The sudden popularity of the name Jose Pidal is making Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr. rethink his reelection prospects.

Lozada said he was currently "sizing up" a potentially formidable opponent in the 2004 polls: Ignacio Arroyo, younger brother of the President's husband and claimant of the Pidal bank accounts.

But the congressman's worst fear is that Ignacio Arroyo would not only make the most of his being the President's brother-in-law but would also actually campaign as Jose Pidal.

Still at the Sulo Hotel media forum, Lozada said Ignacio Arroyo should use Pidal in his official certificate of candidacy.

"He can actually run for president because even tricycle drivers from Aparri to Jolo now know his name, Jose Pidal," Lozada said.

He said that back in their home province, Ignacio Arroyo had already been "announcing" the intention to seek a House seat for Negros Occidental's fifth district.

The district covers the Arroyos' hometown, Binalbagan, as well as the municipalities of Hinigaran, Moises Padilla, Isabela, La Castellana and Himamaylan City.

Later in an interview with the INQUIRER, Lozada said there was indeed a "50-50 chance" that the two of them would meet head-on in next year's elections.

"I'm just assessing his chances because you cannot take for granted the media exposure he's been having these days," the congressman said, adding:

"And if it's true that he has that much money in the Pidal accounts, my God, that's scary!"

Lozada, who is eligible for another term in the House, said he was awaiting "developments" preparatory to deciding whether to seek reelection as congressman or to join the Senate race.

Asked how he intended to overcome Ignacio's Arroyo's advantages if they both ended up contesting the House seat next year, he said: "I still believe that what I've done for the district will not be easily forgotten by the people."

Partymates

Lozada said he and Ignacio Arroyo were both members of the ruling Lakas, but that he had a rather unpleasant history with the latter over party positions.

He said Ignacio Arroyo was given the chairmanship of the regional chapter of Lakas when the President coalesced with the party.

But when the man also "replaced" him as provincial and district chair about a year ago, Lozada said he felt "slighted" because he only learned of the replacement three months later.

Lozada drew notice to this fact to show that Ignacio Arroyo's supposed political ambitions predated the Jose Pidal controversy.

Manila lawmen all ready for Bush visit

By Leila Salaverria

THE WESTERN Police District has begun preparing for its biggest security challenge yet—the visit of United States President George Bush next month.

WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod said the district has begun its intelligence gathering as early as July in anticipation of the American President's arrival.

"We want to make sure all threats and forces who may want to create trouble are addressed," he said. "In fact, we have begun preparations two months before."

Agunod said that they are expecting the usual rallies by anti-US militant groups. He added that the WPD's civil disturbance management group is ready to disperse unruly protesters, especially those without permits.

He also said that augmentation forces from Camp Crame and the National Capital Region Police Office are expected to beef up the 3,000-man WPD.

Manila policemen who want to take a vacation, or even a day off next month would also have to rethink their plans, as all leaves and days off would be cancelled to ensure there are enough personnel around, said Agunod.

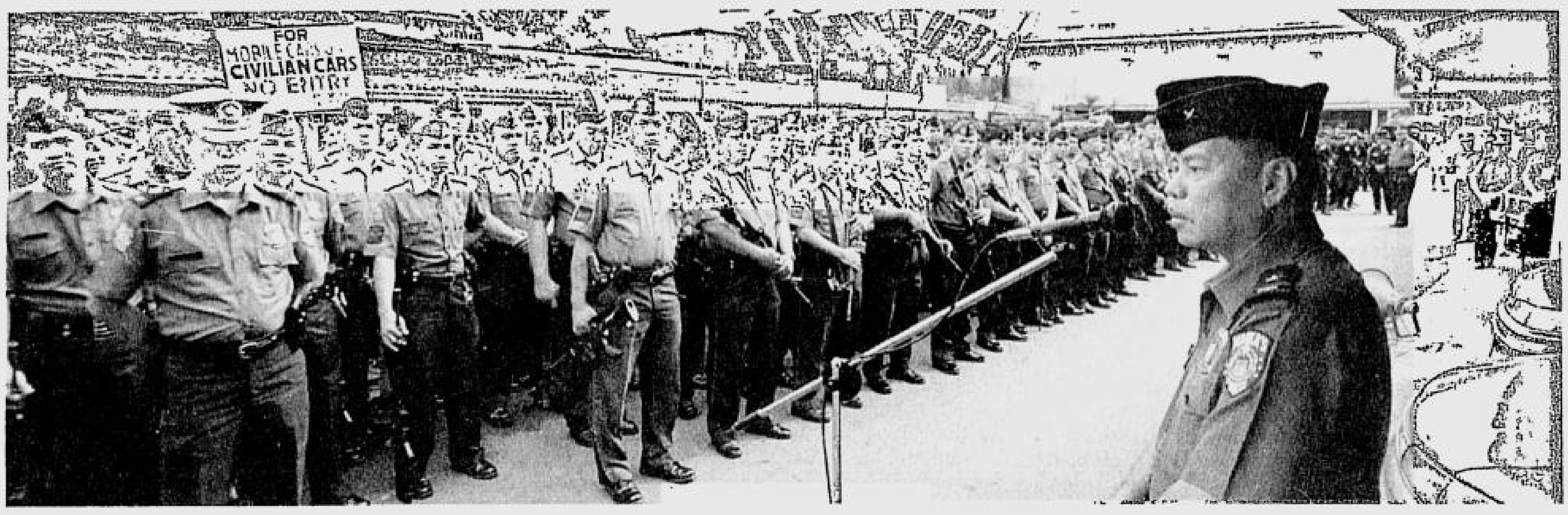
And when Bush arrives, even the personnel who are assigned to the offices, would be deployed outside to monitor the situation in the streets.

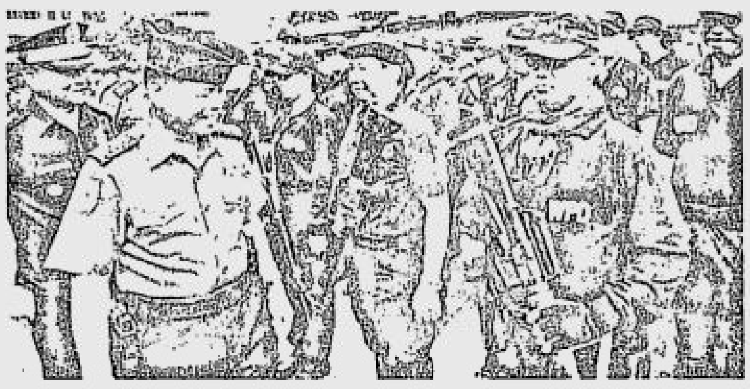
"Only a skeleton force would be left in the offices," the spokesperson said.

Bush's October visit would be his first in the country since he became president.

Rumors of the visit's cancellation had circulated after the attempted coup on July 27, when rebel soldiers took over a Makati City hotel and demanded the resignation of several government officials.

Recently, there have been reports that a second coup is in the offing. But officials were quick to dismiss the threat as something the government can easily contain.





WESTERN Police District Director Pedro Bulaong talks to his men at the district headquarters in Manila before sending them off on patrol. At right, Bulaong inspects the weapons of members of the local Special Weapons and Tactics unit.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

WPD brotherhood pines for delayed service promotions

AFTER a long wait for their promotion, Manila policemen have to contend with a long list of requirements.

The numerous requirements that they have to comply with before they get their long overdue meritorious promotion for their defense of Malacañang during the May 1, 2001 uprising have driven policemen at the Western Police District into frustration and demoralization, according to SP02 Virgo Villareal, Vice President of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, Inc.

Villareal said the affected policemen had been required to submit documents that would take a long time to acquire.

"The police are frustrated and demoralized because of the many requirements being asked from them," Villareal said yesterday. "Most of them think the requirements are unnecessary and only further delay their promotion."

The lawmen are required to submit their personal data sheet, their service record, their transcripts and their attestation of appointment by the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management of Camp Crame.

Villareal said some of these requirements, especially the attestation of appointment, would take approximately six months to get from the Civil Service Commission. Before the policemen can get this from the CSC, they will have to submit yet another pile of documents.

"The paperwork is so voluminous," said one policeman. "Who has time to prepare all this and still work?"

To follow the paper trail takes a lot of time.

Villareal said these requirements defeat the concept of the meritorious promotion, which is supposed to be given based on a policemen's actions in a certain event.

Police would also have to do a lot of legwork to compile the documents.

These requirements, Villareal said, defeat the concept of meritorious promotion, which is supposed to be given based on a policemen's actions in a certain event.

"Why do the police have to submit a lot of papers? The pay slip should be enough to attest to the policeman's rank," he said.

Other policemen interviewed by the INQUIRER shared the same view.

"It's as if the higher ups don't want us to be promoted at all," said one policeman. He added that, in contrast, it takes less time to dismiss a policeman. *Leila Salaverria*

Fire officer in hot water for preying on traders

A MEMBER of the Caloocan City Bureau of Fire Protection is now facing a string of charges for alleged illegal activities.

SFO1 Rolando Enriquez of the Caloocan City Fire Station was accused of acting without authority as a safety inspector and forcing a businesswoman to purchase a fire extinguisher for P2,500 as a basic requirement. A fire extinguisher costs only P1,700.

Four of Enriquez's former colleagues, already dismissed from service, are on the watch list for allegedly posing as safety inspectors.

Bonifacio Zaratan, 52, of Malabon, filed the complaint against Enriquez. He told police that Enriquez had been harassing his aunt, Rosario Frias, a shopowner. Tina Santos

Police capture 'Captain Hook'

By Luige del Puerto

A SHOEMAKER on Friday was caught literally fishing in the middle of dry land.

Policemen at the Marikina station had affectionately nicknamed the suspect "Captain Hook" for his ingenuous use of a hook attached to a line and wooden pole in pulling off a burglary.

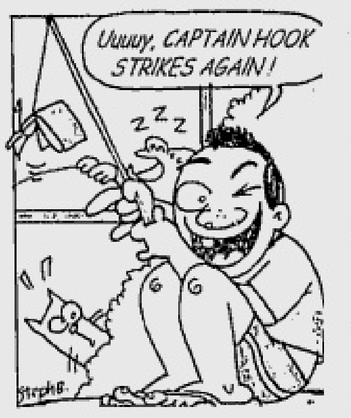
Suspect Neil Arandia specializes in "fishing" for wallets while they are still in the possession of their owners, police said.

Investigation revealed that Arandia, 27, of Tumana District, had crept into the property of Ferdinand Castillo, on A. De Guzman Street, Barangay Concepcion Uno, Marikina City at around 3 a.m. Friday.

Arandia took his time breaking through a window before throwing the hook attached to a pole aiming for Arandia's wallet, the police said.

Arandia had already caught the prized wallet which was halfway in the air when Castillo woke up.

The suspect panicked, giving Castillo enough time to call for help.


Uuuy, CAPTAIN HOOK STRIKES AGAIN!
Z Z Z
StephG.

METROBRIEFS

Tourist robbed in QC

JAPANESE Yushitani Fumiyaki, 40, billeted at Hotel Rembrant in Quezon City, lost jewelry and cash to at least three holdup men on Friday night. Police said the tourist was walking outside his hotel at 11:30 p.m. to look for a place to eat when the suspects who were onboard a car snatched him at gunpoint. The suspects took Yushitani's Rolex wrist watch, gold necklace, bracelet and ring, and his wallet containing Y300,000. The suspects then dropped the victim in front of a restaurant near his hotel and escaped. *Tina Santos*

Dead baby found in Manila

THE BODY of a nine-month-old boy was found inside a plastic bag at the North Cemetery in Sta. Cruz, Manila yesterday. Police said a certain Boyet found the body at 7:45 a.m. yesterday along the Main Avenue Circle. No sign of external injuries were found on the baby's body. At Pier 16 of the North Harbor in Tondo last Friday, Michael Vertodasion, 18, was shot dead by still unidentified suspects. Police said unidentified persons brought Vertodasion, a homeless person to a hospital. *Leila Salaverria*

Robbers jailed in Marikina

JAYSON Guinto of Angono, Rizal and Rexcel Alvarez of Tondo Manila, both suspected robbers of passengers of a jeepney, landed in a Marikina jail on Saturday after they were caught loitering a few meters away from the crime scene. The suspects told police they were waiting for another ride. The two pretended to be passengers and announced the holdup on Marcos Highway. They took the passengers' mobile phones. Unfortunately for the two, a mobile unit was patrolling the area, and the suspects were caught. *Luige del Puerto*

Drug pusher gets life

CALOOCAN City regional trial court Judge Myrna Vidal has sentenced another drug peddler to life imprisonment, and as in her previous decisions, she said that the punishment was "too severe." Judge Vidal handed down a life sentence to Cesar Tercias alias "Ding" of 9-B, Villarosa St., Monumento, Caloocan City, who was caught during a buy-bust operation in September last year. Police found two sachets of shabu on the convict who was also slapped with a P500,000 fine for peddling drugs and a P300,000 fine for possession of illegal drugs. Tercias maintained his innocence during the trial, but the court found him guilty. While the court considered the penalty of life imprisonment for the sale of 0.07 gram of shabu too severe, the Court "has no option but to apply (the law)," Judge Vidal said in her decision. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

UN HAILS RED CROSS YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Red Cross Youth Department of the PNRC was recently honored as one of Five Outstanding Youth Organizations by the United Nations during celebrations held last month at Malacañang. Among those posing with the President's daughter, Luli Arroyo, are Romeo Orilla, Red Cross youth manager, Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, and Sulaiman Andig (holding award), current president of the Red Cross National Youth Council.

Armed...

From page A20

Councilor Domingo Sese also said he would oppose such a move in his town.

"If cops commit mistakes in handling firearms, how much more barangay watchmen?" Sese said.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, on the other hand, agreed with the police officials' assessment that armed barangay tanod (watchmen) could help the authorities in cleaning up the streets.

"It's all about responsible gun ownership," Binay said.

Sonnie Tiu, an official of barangay 760 in Singalong, Manila, said that because the watchmen in their area are mostly female, firearms could help them perform their duties better.

"Car theft incidents and gang wars in our barangay are rampant," Tiu said.

She added that the firearms will help female officials defend themselves against criminals.

She stressed that selected watchmen assigned in places where criminal incidents are high should be given firearms.

Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando also believed that the watchmen in her city should be armed. But she added a "minimum criteria" must first be set for those who would be issued guns.

Fernando in quest for radio station

By Margaux Ortiz

A RADIO station that would broadcast nothing else but the traffic situation in the metropolis is the new project of Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

But he is still looking for the radio station which could handle the task.

Fernando said the station would be operational 24 hours a day.

By listening to the station, motorists could learn about the traffic situation in all areas in the metropolis, he said.

The MMDA chair said the station would also give out information on re-routing schemes and alternative roads.

Motorists could refer to the station when they want to estimate their time of travel, he said.

"The motorists and commuters would then know how long it would take to travel from one place to another," Fernando said.

"We are optimistic that with this new project, traffic will no longer be an excuse (for being) late," he added.

Meanwhile, a group of bus operators yesterday said they are exhausting all means to win commuters back from the Metro Rail Transit (MRT).

Commuters think taking the train will get them to their destination faster and more efficiently. Gavin Peñalosa, spokesperson of the Northeast Manila Bus Operators Group, said buses have become mere shuttle services of passengers to MRT stations.

"We end up having no passengers between Mantrade and Cubao because people choose to ride the MRT," Penalosa lamented.

But .with the re-implementation of the yellow lane scheme and single dispatch system, things have been looking up for the bus operators.

Liver transplant for Mary Jane

ANGIE Badiola is appealing for financial help for her daughter, Mary Jane, who is suffering from a chronic renal disease. Mary Jane badly needs a liver transplant which, based on estimates, will cost more than P360,000. Badiola said she has a niece who is willing to donate a liver to Mary Jane, but they could not afford the operation costs, thus, this appeal for help. The Badiolas live in Adriatico, Sta. Cruz, Baao, Camarines Sur. Donors may get in touch with them at cell phone no. 0917-3920023, or may directly deposit donations at Badiola's savings account (No. 4175185173) at the Philippine National Bank branch in Iriga City.

Maintenance medicines

DIGNA Yanos is appealing for financial assistance to defray the costs of her husband's maintenance medicines every month. Robert Yanos, Digna's husband, has undergone a kidney transplant and needs to take the prescribed medicines daily to help him recover fast. The medicines cost more than P31,000 every month. Donors may call Mrs. Yanos at 0919-4410761 or may send their donations directly to Land Bank (account no. 3216-0230-55).

Appeal for help

LEONOR L. Solis is appealing for financial assistance for her husband, Alfredo, 55, who is presently undergoing hemodialysis twice a week for chronic renal failure. He is spending P1,700 for the weekly dialysis treatment. Donations can be sent to him at their house at 31 Providencia Street, Zone 3, Signal Village, Taguig, Metro Manila.

SUERTRES 8 9 9

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

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Armed and dangerous

By Tina Santos, Margaux Ortiz, Leila Salaverria and Luige del Puerto

IF POLICE officials were to have their way, there would be an army of barangay officials out there in the streets—all armed and dangerous.

Ranking Philippine National Police officials on Friday said that they are prepared to issue permits to carry firearms to barangay elders in the metropolis.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco recommended the plan to PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. during the Ugnayan ng Pulisya at Mamamayan in Camp Crame on Friday.

Velasco explained that by arming barangay elders, the authorities would be able to effectively deal with illegal drug dealers and other street criminals.

"This will make them (barangay elders) more effective as 'force multipliers' in Metro Manila," Velasco said.

"Nightsticks are no match for guns. Barangay leaders… who themselves are potential targets of lawless elements, should not be left at the mercy of armed hooligans."

Velasco said that it is one of the proposed solutions to the lack of manpower in the PNP—not enough to serve the 12 million residents of Metro Manila.

There are 17,000 policemen in the National Capital Region, he said. The 23,000 barangay officials in the metropolis could go a long way in helping the police secure the streets, Velasco said.

Local executives in Metro Manila have reacted strongly to the proposal of the national police to arm barangay officials.

In Manila, city councilor Don Bagatsing yesterday said he opposed the arming of elders.

"No way, it's not going to work," Bagatsing said.

Bagatsing said it is not within the barangay officials mandate to carry weapons.

"What if armed officials lose the elections? They might use their guns for violence," Bagatsing said. San Juan

ARMED/ A19

A BARANGAY tanod walking with a nightstick in hand, is no match to the firepower of street criminals, according to police officers. JESS YUSON

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Rob suspect's kin cries foul, sues cops right back

By Margaux Ortiz

THE BROTHER of Union bank robbery suspect Gerry Antonio has filed charges against top Parañaque police officers for illegal arrest and "incrimination of an innocent person."

In his complaint, Pio Antonio Jr. has accused Parañaque City police chief Supt. Rolando Estilles, SPO2 Moises Lola and five unidentified Parañaque policemen for their involvement in the arrest last Tuesday.

Pio also included in the complaint National Bureau of Investigation Director Vicente de Guzman and members of his Special Action Unit.

Pio said his neighbors could testify that his brother was fixing their fence at the time of the robbery on Monday.

He also said in his complaint that the evidence the police have against his brother—a written confession of a past robbery—which Gerry allegedly left at the scene of the crime was "outrageously impossible" and a "direct insult to the intelligence of the public."

"My brothers were just the fall guys," Pio said through their lawyer Apollo Atencia. "Had they committed an honest mistake in arresting my brother, I would not have filed a complaint… but what they (police) did was deliberate."

But Estilles said that the suspect's arrest was based on evidence and testimonies gathered at the crime scene.

Estilles said the brown envelope the suspect handed to the building security guard before the robbery allegedly contained Gerry's written confession of an earlier bank heist in Quezon City.

The police chief said that they conducted pursuit operations based on the testimony of a guard who positively identified the suspect through the bank's computerized photo file.

For love of Meteor Garden 'do, man sends pa to jail

JOEY Ochada must have loved his "Meteor Garden" hairdo more than his own father.

Ochada, 25, of Bustamante Street, Grace Park, Caloocan City, had his father Paciano, 53, jailed for using a gun to threaten his son to cut his hair.

The younger Ochada yesterday claimed that he is an avid fan of the Chinese boy band F4, whose members are mainstays of the ABS-CBN soap "Meteor Garden."

Ochada told Caloocan Precinct 3 commander Insp. Christopher Onelia that he refused to have a haircut because he wants to look like Dao Min Si, the star of the show.

At 2:45 p.m. yesterday, Paciano, a widower and car mechanic, reportedly got home drunk and nagged his son to have a haircut.

When his son refused, Paciano pulled out a gun and poked it at Ochada. Neighbors heard the commotion and called the police.

The police then found out that Paciano's gun was unlicensed and hauled him to jail.

Tina Santos

Sunday SPORTS

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Mutola bags $1-M jackpot /A22

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2003; 7 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m.); 1:30 p.m. (r) Catch the women's singles final live and the replay of the men's singles semifinals.

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games—Celtics vs Knicks, Game 4, 1984 Eastern Semifinals; 7:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Boston meets a potential roadblock in New York in its quest for title number 15.

Entertainers Basketball Classic; 9:30 a.m. (r-5 p.m.)—Witness hoops action from the playgrounds of New York City.

NBA Summer League-Raptors vs Sonics; 10:30 a.m. (r-10 p.m.); Solar Sports—Missing the playoffs last season, Toronto and Seattle hope their fortunes turn around this time as they face off in this off-season duel.

Michael Jordan Tribute; 3 p.m.; Solar Sports—Witness all the memorable moments in the career of the greatest basketball player.

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Limpot lifts Kings to victory

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7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Shell

By June Navarro

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Meanwhile, the PBA One-on-One competition will return on Sept. 14 after being shelved for almost two decades.

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Quarters: 22-27, 44-37, 70-60, 95-88.

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AdU trips UP; UST tops cheering anew

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Despite being assured of a final four berth, the Lady Falcons never wavered against the erratic Lady Maroons, who failed to solve Adamson's tireless pressing defense.

In other games, titlist La Salle beat UE, 61-39, while UST ambushed FEU, 63-45.

In the cheering competition, Santo Tomas made it back-to-back with a wonderful display of extreme sports, ballet, jazz and modern dances which enthralled the overflow crowd.

Represented by the Salinggawi dance troupe, Santo Tomas totaled 89.5 points to win the top purse of P100,000 put up by Nestlé Phils.

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Meanwhile, men's basketball action resumes today with FEU (8-3) clashing with UP (2-9), and La Salle (6-5) testing Adamson (5-6) at the Loyola Gym.

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Angelo Barretto
PLDT

Won by Angelo Barretto in his first visit to Le Mans, driving a 1966 Porsche 906 Carrera 6. The Inaugural Le Mans Classic was held in 2002 as a celebration of the most prestigious endurance race in the world, showcasing classic automobiles from the 1920s to the 1000+ hp of the 1970s. Teams were divided into Plateaus (or groups) representing each significant decade. The cars ran in rotation to simulate a 24 hour format. The next Le Mans Classic will be held in 2004.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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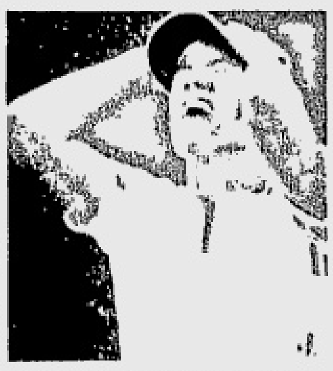
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

WHAT'S INSIDE



It's Hardenne vs Clijsters /A22

Mutola bags $1-M jackpot /A22

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2003; 7 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m.); 1:30 p.m. (r) Catch the women's singles final live and the replay of the men's singles semifinals

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games—Celtics vs Knicks, Game 4, 1984 Eastern Semifinals; 7:30 a.m. Solar Sports—Boston meets a potential roadblock in New York in its quest for title number 15

Entertainers Basketball Classic; 9:30 a.m. (r-5 p.m.)—Witness hoops action from the playgrounds of New York City.

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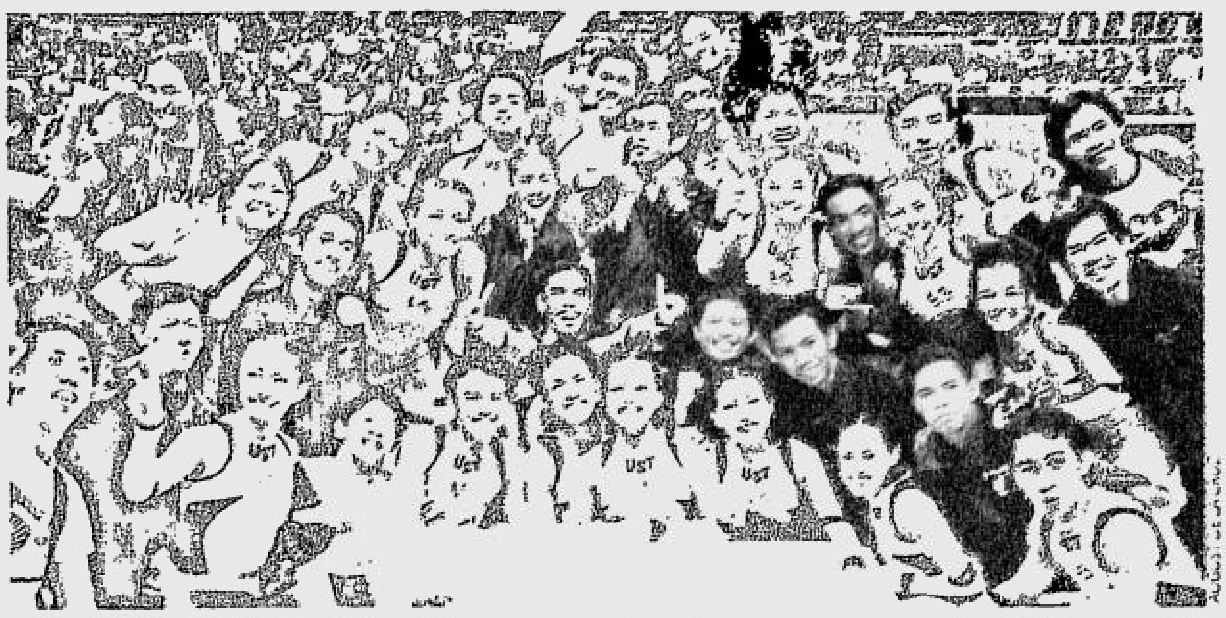

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SPORTSWATCH

Russia posts upset

SODERTALJE, Sweden—NBA forward Andrei Kirilenko scored a game-high 29 points as Russia upset defending champion Serbia and Montenegro 95-80 Friday at the European Basketball Championship. Vasili Karassev added 16 points and Fedor Licholitov 14 for Russia. Russia managed only 10th at last year's World Championship in Indianapolis, won by Serbia and Montenegro. But the defending champ was missing some of its key players from the 2002 squad on Friday. Vlade Divac, the Sacramento Kings' veteran center, and Spanish-based Dejan Bodiroga and Dejan Tomasevic are the biggest absentees. In another surprise, Slovenia beat Italy 77-67 in Group A at Lulea, just south of the Arctic Circle, behind 21 points from Bostjan Nachbar of the Houston Rockets, and 14 off Jaka Lakovic. *AP*

PRCI races slated

EXCITING races return to the Santa Ana Park starting this Tuesday (Sept. 9) as the Philippine Racing Club Inc. hosts six days racing to jumpstart its September calendar. PRCI's schedule consists of four night races (nine races each) from Tuesday through Friday and two weekend cards of 13 races each on Saturday and Sunday. Highlight of the six-day racefest is the running of the 5th leg of the 2003 Philracom Imported Stakes series on Sept. 14. PRCI has set two days of declaration for the schedule, last Sept. 5 for horses running on Sept. 9-12 and Sept. 11 (Thursday) for horses running on Sept. 13 and 14. The corresponding drawing of lots for the said races has been scheduled for Monday (Sept. 8) and Friday (Sept. 12) respectively. Horses running on PRCI's races from Tuesday to Thursday may participate anew for PRCI's weekend cards.

Big Dome derby set

THE ANNUAL "Firebird 7-Stag Derby" fires off this coming Wednesday and Friday (Sept. 10 and 12) at the Araneta Coliseum. Majority of the entries to be fielded in will come from 8,500-plus stags banded by UCAP last March. Entries from NCA and other breeders organizations will also compete. Promoter Biboy Enriquez said this event will be the first UCAP-sponsored stag derby that kicks off the "UCAP Stagfighter of the Year 2003" race. Submission of entries is on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum green gate. Interested parties may contact 911-2928 or 911-3101 (loc. 8351 and 8357) and look for Gloria.

GOLF CHAMP
US Kids World Jungolf champion Dottie Ardina (left) paid a courtesy call recently on Air21 chair Bert Lina, one of her staunchest supporters in her international campaign. Ardina won the jungolf crown for 9-year-old golfers in the US Kids tournament in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. Lina said that Air21 is committed to supporting Ardina in her quest to bring honor to the country.

ALL-BELGIAN FINAL

It's Hardenne vs Clijsters

NEW YORK—Justine Henin-Hardenne scrambled to win a thrilling US Open semifinal 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (4) past midnight Friday after Jennifer Capriati twice served for the match.

By the time Henin-Hardenne emerged victorious, she gave herself 19 1/2 hours to recover to meet fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters in their first US Open final on Saturday.

"I gave everything I had," Henin-Hardenne said. "I was cramping. Serving was very hard. I did my best. I could have lost this match. I am very happy."

"It's very late. I need a good sleep."

Said Capriati: "It hurts."

No. 1-ranked Clijsters dominated dispirited former champion Lindsay Davenport 6-2, 6-3 in the first semifinal.

The championship match will be a rematch of the French Open final, which Henin-Hardenne won, but it's hard to imagine it will provide the theater and shotmaking that Henin-Hardenne and Capriati produced, even as both were fighting leg cramps.

There was the stab lob Capriati came up with to thwart a smash and set up a winner that put her a point away from winning the first set. There was the crosscourt backhand passing shot from an impossible angle that Henin-Hardenne used to break in the first game of the third set.

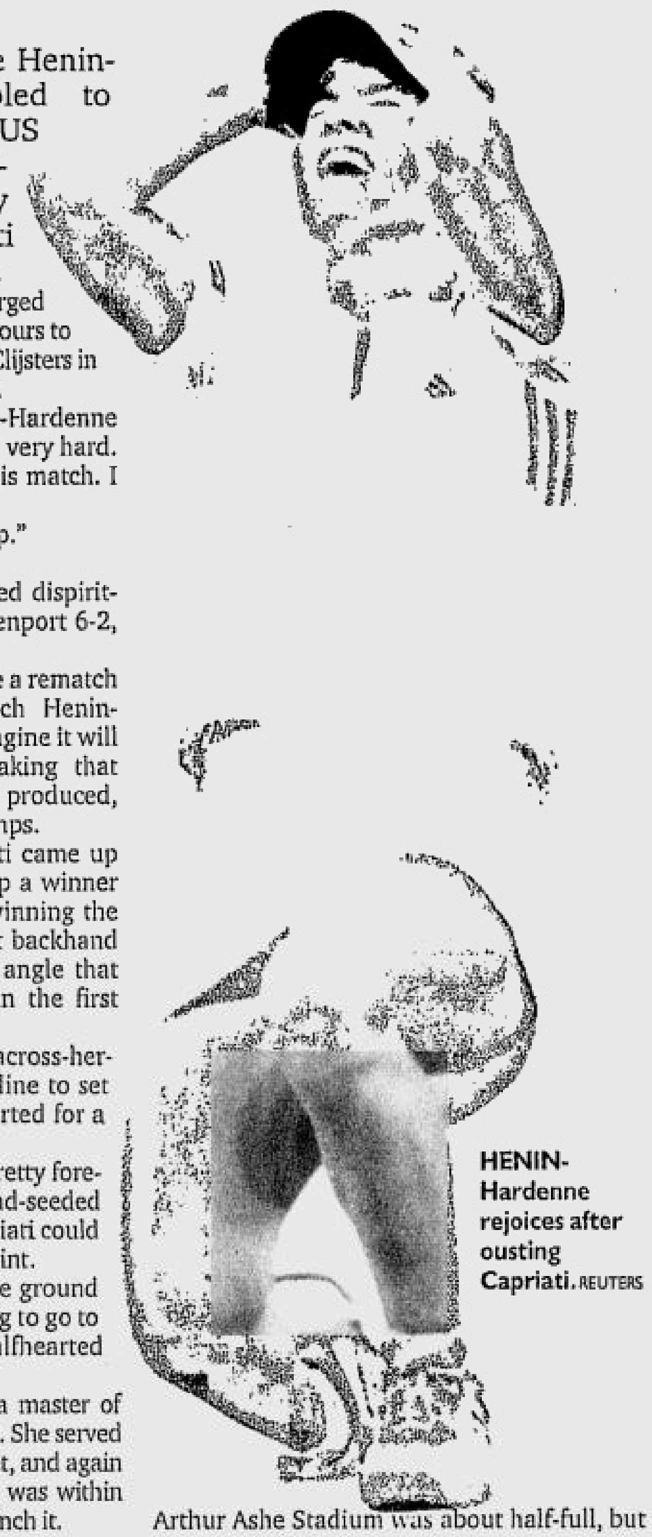
There was Capriati's running, across-her-body forehand winner down the line to set up a break point which she converted for a 3-1 edge in the deciding set.

And, in the end, there was the pretty forehand passing shot hit by second-seeded Henin-Hardenne which No. 6 Capriati could only put into the net on the final point.

Henin-Hardenne dropped to the ground and covered her head, before rising to go to the net. Capriati gave her a halfhearted handshake.

It could be tough for Capriati, a master of comebacks, to recover from this loss. She served for the match at 5-3 in the second set, and again at 5-3 in the third. Nine times, she was within two points of victory, but couldn't clinch it.

The women's final four was moved to Friday night for the first time because of a week full of rain which delayed the schedule. Arthur Ashe Stadium was about half-full, but the partisan fans did their best to spur on Capriati in a match which lasted 3 hours, 3 minutes. *AP*



HENIN-Hardenne rejoices after ousting Capriati. REUTERS

Agassi, Roddick in semis

NEW YORK—Top-seeded Andre Agassi took advantage of two days off during a rainy US Open and reached the semifinals for the ninth time by beating No. 5 Guillermo Coria, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5, Friday.

"A lot of things get more difficult as you get older. Opportunities get rarer," said 33-year-old Agassi, whose next opponent is French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero. "It wasn't easy on anybody—the players, the fans, TV. It's been a difficult week."

It's been less difficult, though, for Agassi and No. 4 Andy Roddick, who powered into his third Grand Slam semifinal of 2003 with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 win over No. 12 Sjeng Schalken. Roddick, whose season-high winning streak reached 17 matches, will play No. 13 David Nalbandian in the semifinals.

Agassi finished his fourth-round match Tuesday when Taylor Dent quit after three sets with a leg injury. And Roddick booked his quarterfinal spot Wednesday. *AP*

MUTOLA

Mutola bags $1-M jackpot

BRUSSELS, Belgium—Maria Mutola of Mozambique won a US$1 million jackpot on Friday, taking the 800 meters at the Van Damme Memorial to make it a perfect six-for-six in Golden League races.

Mutola left it late in the race but once she kicked for home, no one came close as she claimed the biggest payday in her career and one of the biggest paychecks in athletics.

She finished in 1 minute, 57.78 seconds, easily holding off Natalya Khrushchelyova of Russia by .75 seconds.

Earlier, Kelli White shrugged off her doping worries and fought back from behind to edge fellow American Chryste Gaines and win the 100 meters. *AP*

Paragua wins

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua defeated Spaniard Miguel Angel Prada Lopez to bounce back in contention after the fifth round of the VI Open International de Ajedrez VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea chess championships Friday night at the Sports Complex in Madrid, Spain. Paragua now has four wins against one loss for a total of 4 points, good for a tie from the 11th to 27th places with compatriot IM Joseph Sanchez, IM Aryam Abreau of Cuba, IM Jose Maria Hernandez Rodrigo and FIDE Master Gabriel Rojo Huerta of Spain, IM Leonid Bass Markz of USA, IM Slobodan Kovacevic of Yugoslavia, IM Gergios Souleidis of Greece and nine others. *Marlon Bernardino*

All set for Inaugural Weekend at E. Ridge

THE MUCH-awaited Inaugural Weekend of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite on Sept. 20-21 will mark the completion of the most ambitious golf and residential resort project in the Philippines.

Just with its sheer size, Eagle Ridge will rise above the other local courses.

Chances are, no real estate giant and not even a foreign firm in the near future would dare pour in a multi-billion investment the way Alsons Land Corp. and Sta. Lucia Realty forged a joint venture partnership to transform a 700-hectare prime property into what is now one of Asia's biggest golf complexes.

And as the countdown starts for the opening of Eagle Ridge's fourth course designed by Greg Norman and its Main Family Clubhouse with such grand design that it can accommodate simultaneous events and gatherings, excitement is building up among members looking forward to the weekend bash.

Offering new innovations in golf course construction, the Norman course will complete the 72-hole promise of Eagle Ridge together with the three other layouts designed by Andy Dye, Nick Faldo and Isao Aoki.

By the time the Norman course opens, it will become only the second club in Asia after the Singapore Island Country Club to have four courses or 72 holes playable, ranked next in size to the region's largest which is the Mission Hills Golf Club in Shenzhen, China with five 18-hole courses.

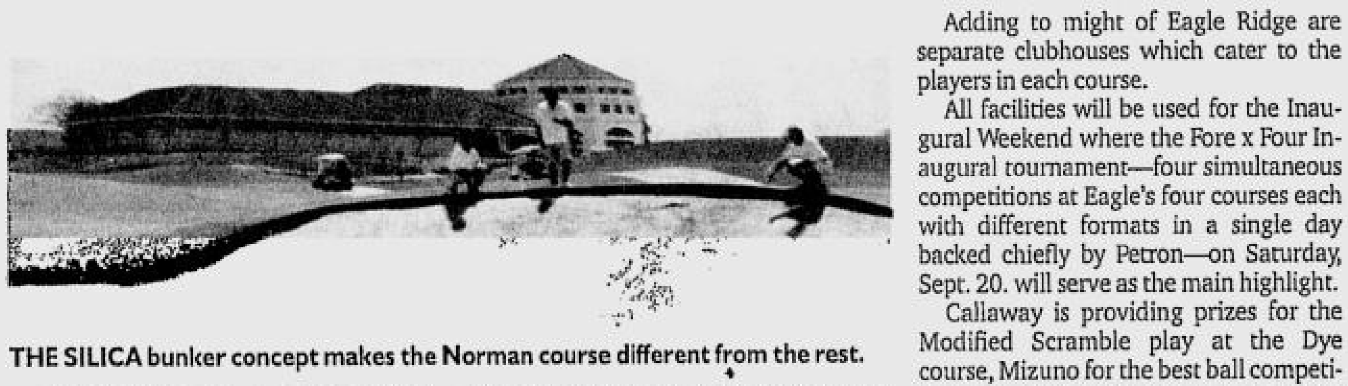
Most of the giant courses in golf-crazy countries like Japan and Thailand have only 54 holes at the most.

Adding to might of Eagle Ridge are separate clubhouses which cater to the players in each course.

All facilities will be used for the Inaugural Weekend where the Fore x Four Inaugural tournament—four simultaneous competitions at Eagle's four courses each with different formats in a single day backed chiefly by Petron—on Saturday, Sept. 20. will serve as the main highlight.

Callaway is providing prizes for the Modified Scramble play at the Dye course, Mizuno for the best ball competition at Aoki, Titleist for aggregate-point system event at Faldo and Cobra for the aggregate-stroke play at Norman.

The steering committee headed by Engr. Winfred Gob, project director of Eagle Ridge, has lined up tennis duels supported by Head Penn, badminton events backed by Winex and Tronex and also for badminton and bowling.



THE SILICA bunker concept makes the Norman course different from the rest.

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5TH–P1000
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7AM, SUNDAY, SEPT 14, 2003
GROTTO, RODRIGUEZ (FORMERLY MONTALBAN) RIZAL PROVINCE
WITH BRIEFING AT 7PM, FRIDAY SEPT 12, 2003 AT VETERANS VILLAGE COVERED COURT, QUEZON CITY
REGISTRATION FEE: P300 INCLUSIVE OF RACE KIT, LUNCH AND SOUVENIR SHIRT
1-DAY SALE 20% OFF ON ALL MARZOCCHI, SHIMANO, FSA, TRUATIVE, SUN RINGLE NOKIAN AND DA BOMB PRODUCTS! ON RACE DAY ONLY. NO RESERVATIONS. CASH BASIS ONLY.

'Like a rocket ship'

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

"BYAHE Horse of the Week" was how the *bayang karerista* branded the colt Golden Lance.

The galloper lost as an outstanding favorite, in a questionable manner frowned upon by thousands of racing fans, in the fourth race last Friday night at the SLLP in Carmona.

My *Silip Boy* said the Philracom board, headed by chair Jimmy "Action Man" Dilag, will review the race tomorrow and that ace jockey Jesus Guce would be summoned next.

Another horse which racing fans said lost in "garapal" style was Security Star (Race 9, Wednesday night).

Golden Lance came in second to Yours Truly while Security Star arrived only third behind Popularity and Hezabellagio.

***

Marho chief Putch Puyat appeared before the Philracom panel probing the Alfredo Po-Dennis Camañero incident last Thursday and denied allegations that he offered money to a witness in the alleged gun-pointing or cell phone-pointing controversy.

Kareristas are praising Puyat and his fellow Marho men for urging the Philracom to conduct a probe of Camañero's complaints against Po.

In the meantime, the investigation continues and the *bayang karerista* is waiting for the Philracom decision.

***

Reader Dan Marcelino from Los Angeles, California wrote to update us on Ramon Guce who's now campaigning in the US, and the coming Breeders' Cup races:

"Monching Guce will be back at Los Alamitos this Thursday *at sasakay* next week *sa* opening *ng* LA Fair *sa* Pomona, California. Last year *marami siyang pinanalong* long shot *dito sa* Pomona *dahil* most of the top jockeys like P. Valenzuela, V. Espinoza and David Flores don't ride here *kaya nakakakuha siya ng mga magagandang sakay.*

Pagbalik ng karera sa Santa Anita *sa* Oak Tree *ay gagawin ang* Breeder's Cup Races on the last Saturday of October. *Sana ay napapanood din ng mga kababayan natin diyan.*

I've heard *na magkakatapat sa* Classic *sina* Azeri, Empire Maker, Funny Cide, Ten Most Wanted, Congaree, Medaglia d'Oro *at si* Candy ______ *na tumalo kay* Medaglia d'Oro recently *lang.*

Kung itatakbo ng kabayong ito ang ginawa niya sa Pacific Classic, *mapapalaban silang lahat dito sa sakay ni* Julie Krone.

Kindly send my warmest regards to all my racing buddies in Lardizabal and Sta. Teresita St. in Sampaloc, Manila and to trainers Nick Atienza and Nestor Manalang. God bless and more power to you."

***

Mr. Marcelino is of course talking about US racing fans' darling of the moment, the undefeated Candy Ride (6-0), the hyped horse from Argentina owned by Jenny and Sid Craig and trained by Hall of Famer Ron McAnally.

With Candy Ride's stunning win over Medaglia d'Oro in the recent Pacific Classic at Del Mar, Julie Krone became the first woman jockey to win a $1-million race in the United States. Krone was lifted atop Candy Ride after regular pilot Gary "The Iceman" Stevens was injured in a recent race.

When asked to describe Candy Ride, Krone replied: "Amazing. He's a rocket ship."

The Craigs are now setting their sight on the Breeders' Cup Classic (at Oak Tree in Santa Anita on Oct. 25) where he could meet Medaglia d'Oro, last year's Classic runner-up to long shot Volponi, again.

By winning the Pacific Classic, Candy Ride became a candidate for the Classic but the Craigs must pay a supplemental fee of $800,000 to have their horse entered in the prestigious event. Racing experts said there'll be no problem for the Craigs since Jenny is the woman behind the US-wide chain of weight-loss centers and diet food line named for her.

Victory

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHO doesn't want to win the overall crown in the Vietnam SEA Games in December?

Not me.

But much as I want us to win, we couldn't. The opposition has remained simply that tough. We haven't coped with the power of our neighbors like Indonesia, Thailand and, yes, Malaysia. Vietnam has slowly, but surely, overtaken us. Vietnam might even win it, given the quirk rules of the Games in that host countries have the widest of latitude to stage disciplines at their own whims and caprices.

We've lagged behind because, when we'd rather that we train our energies on unity and understanding, we resort to politics and mudslinging. Alas, we've been injecting, continue to inject, bitterness on our athletes instead of the sweetness of having the honor of representing flag and country.

Money has become the manipulator, not the manipulated.

Athletes, seeing their own leaders doing it with naked arbitrariness, are now moved by the color of money. Or, to be blunt about it, money now makes them perform and not them making money perform for them.

People fight over the abundance of money.

People also fight over the absence of money.

When there's money, there's evil.

When there's no money, there's evil, too.

The cycle will never end, unless the cleansing is done from within.

Thus, we see officials fight over trivialities such as sponsorships or which logos to patch up on players' uniforms. As if this sponsor or that logo would ensure victory.

The spirit of competition, the substance of sportsmanship, is all lost in man's greed for power, authority. Avarice, arrogance, folly—they come, like all evil thoughts, from within, from the heart.

Money is external and yet, most of us continue to allow it to invade us. Nobody listens to the Good Book anymore: "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."

When did we last give it a thought—that victory always comes from the heart?

Victory is such sweet potion that, like the elixir of eternal youth, we long for it for dear life. Has Julius Caesar not died yearning for it? Ambition? Victory?

But how much time and effort have we exerted, been exerting, to attain the SEA Games dream?

Since we almost won it in 1991—losing the overall title by a single gold medal—we never really came close to winning it again in the next six editions of the biennial meet. The interminable forces of greed, corruption and bureaucratic red tape in our government and the social malaise of depending too much on leaders instead of our own selves have continued to erode the Filipino athlete's capacity to excel in the last dozen years or so.

There has been so much wrangling in our midst instead of bonding among both our sports officials and athletes themselves that we have now forgotten about how to score a victory.

And what is victory again?

If I read him right, Cito Dayrit, the nation's Olympic boss, said it is that we finish fourth overall in Vietnam. And I couldn't agree more.

Victory isn't just finishing ahead of the pack. Victory is also embracing reality.

***

FASTBREAK. I'll be honored to join my 'Insan' Taby Tabaniag and Jake Ayson in officiating the Riviera Amateur Championship in Silang, Cavite, starting tomorrow. Always, it gives me pleasure to work with these golf rules giants. Thank you for bestowing me the honor, Commodore Pizarro. While Jake is called Mr. Meticulous, Grappa's owner Bert Bravo has a perfect moniker for Insan Taby: Royal & Ancient. At 83, how can you question Insan Taby's wisdom? Cheers to you, Pareng Bert, for having coined the aptest tag for our beloved Taby, a.k.a. the Pope of Philippine golf.

Delasin 3 shots down in Classic

FIL-AM Dorothy Delasin fired a two-under-par 68 to grab a share of fourth place after the opening round of the John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic at the Tulsa Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Delasin birdied two of the last four holes to land just three shots off solo leader Karrie Webb. Webb shot a 65 to go one up on Donna Andrews and two ahead of Tammie Green.

Defending champion Annika Sorenstam was among those bunched in seventh place after a 69.

RP campaigner Jenny Rosales is not entered. She arrived yesterday from Los Angeles for a two-week break in Manila.

Meanwhile, Charles Howell III shot a two-under-par 68 to move into a one-stroke lead after the second round of the Canadian Open on Friday. Howell ended the day at five-under-par 135, just ahead of Tom Byrum (69) and Japanese Kenichi Kuboya (67) and Hidemichi Tanaka (70).

MORE TIME! MORE CHANCES TO DRIVE HOME A PORSCHE!

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Axe knows what men want. The Porsche AXEperience Promo has been **EXTENDED** so that you can send in more entries for bigger chances of driving home the brand new Porsche Boxster! Entries can still be dropped in selected supermarkets, convenience stores, and drugstores nationwide or mailed to: Unilever Philippines, 1351 United Nations Ave., Manila on or before **SEPTEMBER 18**.

The promo is open to all men between the ages of 18-35. Simply enclose in an envelope two (2) stickered caps of any Axe product. At the back of the envelope, print your name, address, age, contact numbers and affix your signature. Answer the question: "What are the five (5) fragrances of Axe Deo-Cologne?" The Grand Draw will be on October 12, 2003 when one lucky man will not only have the AXE-effect of luring women but will also take home his dream sportscar!

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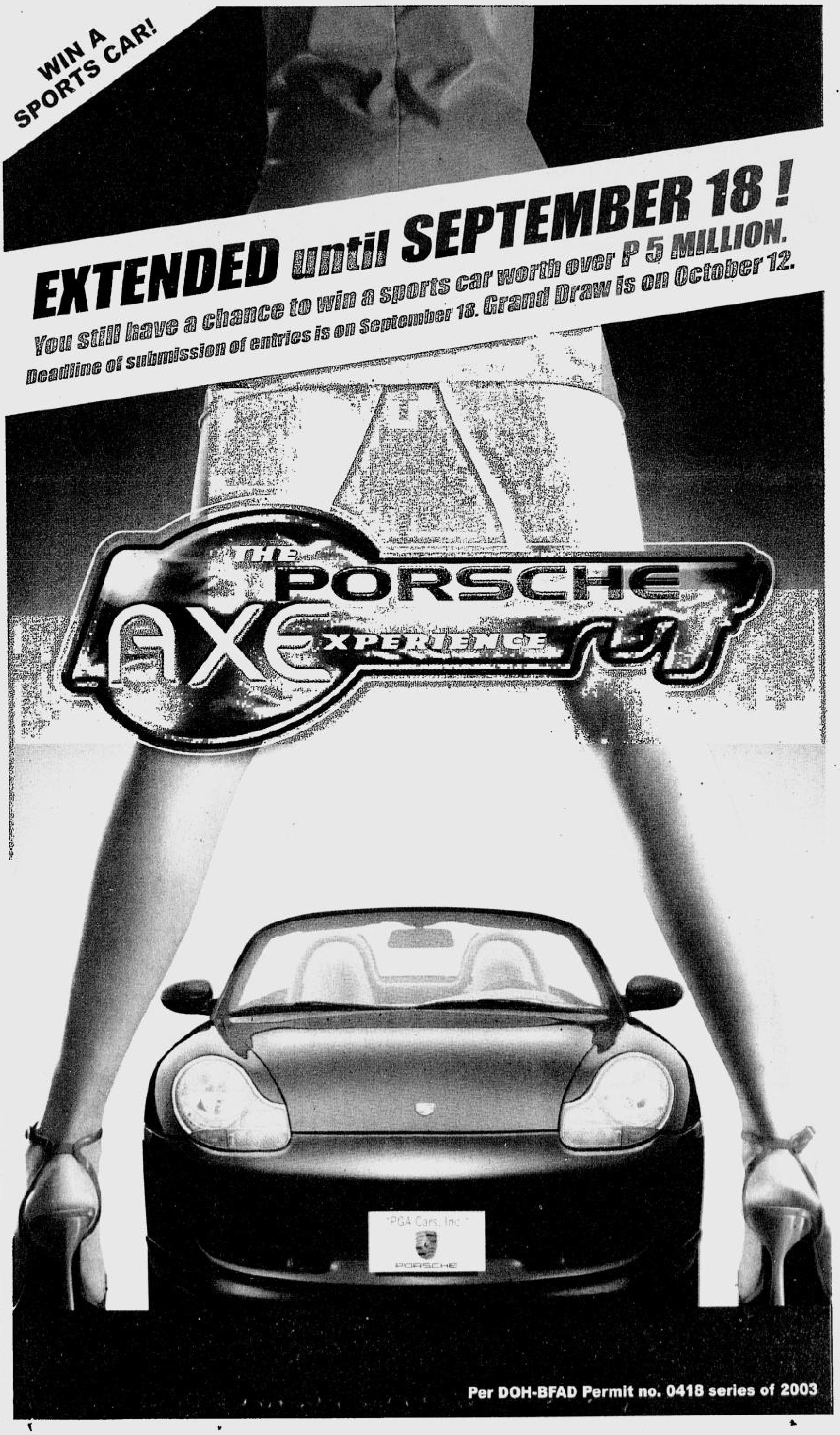
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2 S.W.A.T.	2 S.W.A.T.	2 S.W.A.T. 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 S.W.A.T. 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45	2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 S.W.A.T. 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30	MARTIN NIEVERA Sep. 12 & 13 9PM BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept. 19 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE ITALIAN JOB 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	3 PINAY PIE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	4 SPY KIDS 3D		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 SINBAD - 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 S.W.A.T. - 9:05, 11:30	4 SINBAD
	5 SINBAD		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
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4	

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6	S.W.A.T.
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10	NEW BLOOD
11	FINDING NEMO
12	PINAY PIE

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8	S.W.A.T.

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8	S.W.A.T.

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3 WWW.XXX.COM 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 SINBAD- 10:15, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
5 SPY KIDS 3D - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
6 PINAY PIE - 10:20, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:40
7 LEGALLY BLONDE - 2 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40

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Ali 5	SPY KIDS 3
Ali 6	SINBAD
Ali 7	LEGALLY BLONDE

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SEPT 11	UAAP GAMES: UST VS. UE
SEPT 12	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 13	UAAP GAMES: ADMU VS. DLSU
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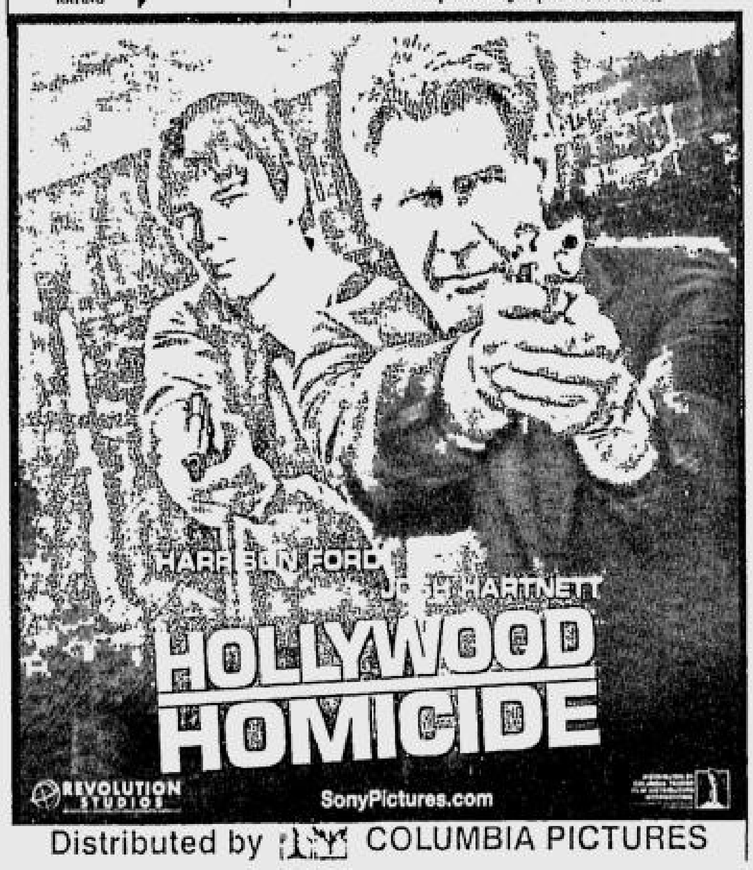
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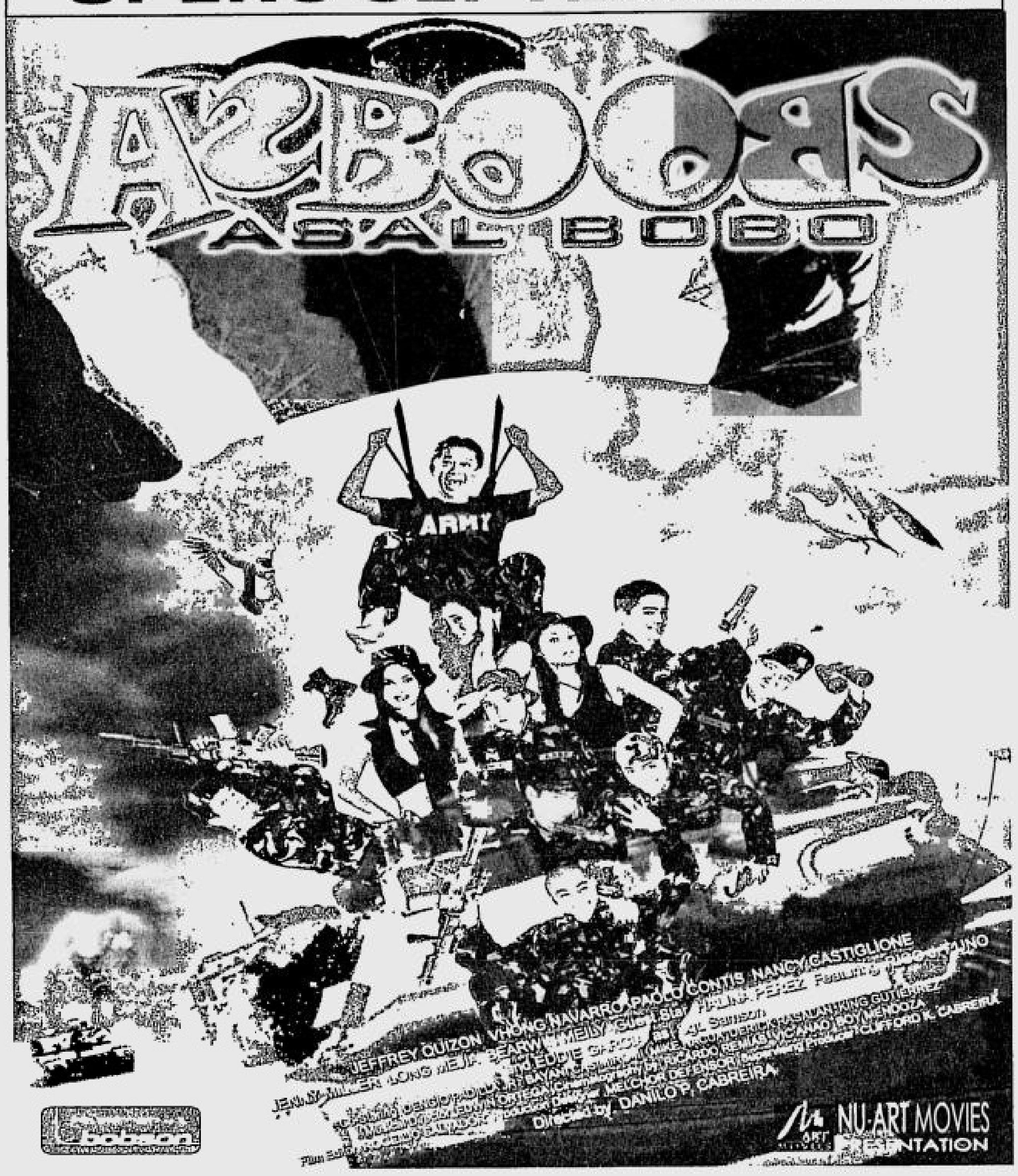
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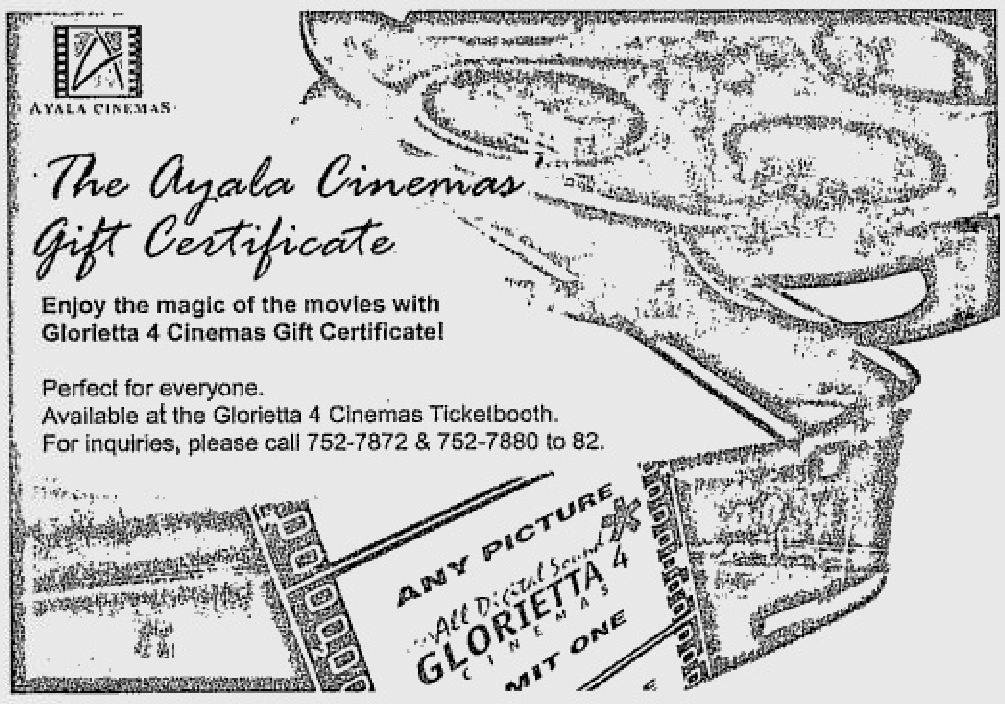
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TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	WWW XXX COM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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A	PINAY PIE
B	SEX DRIVE
C	

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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWAT
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CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
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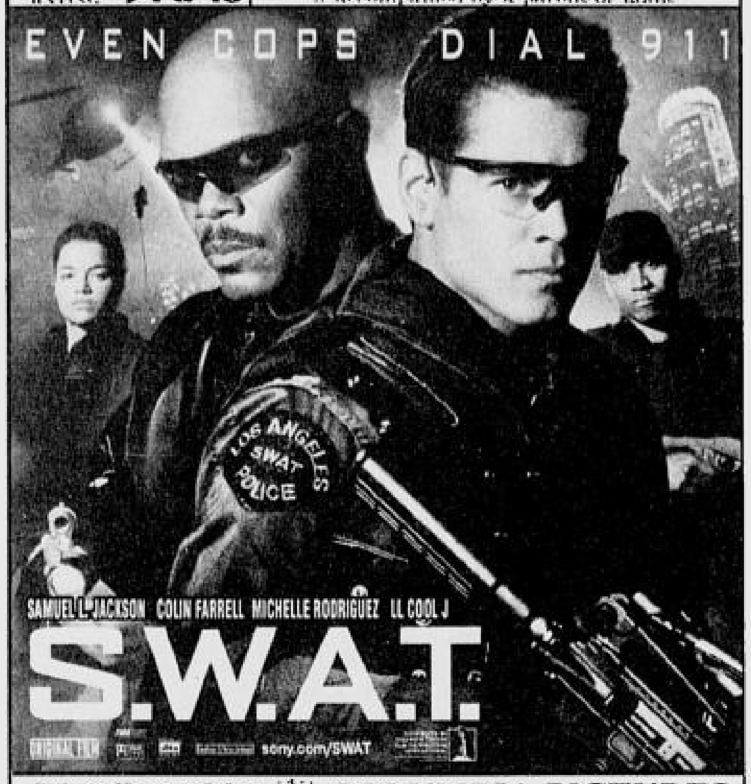

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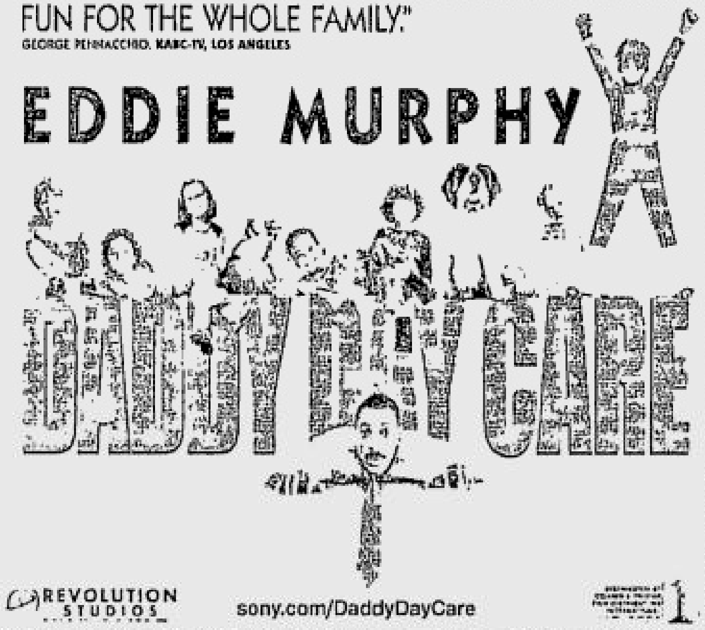

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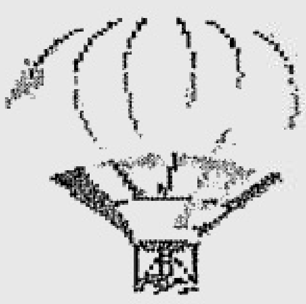

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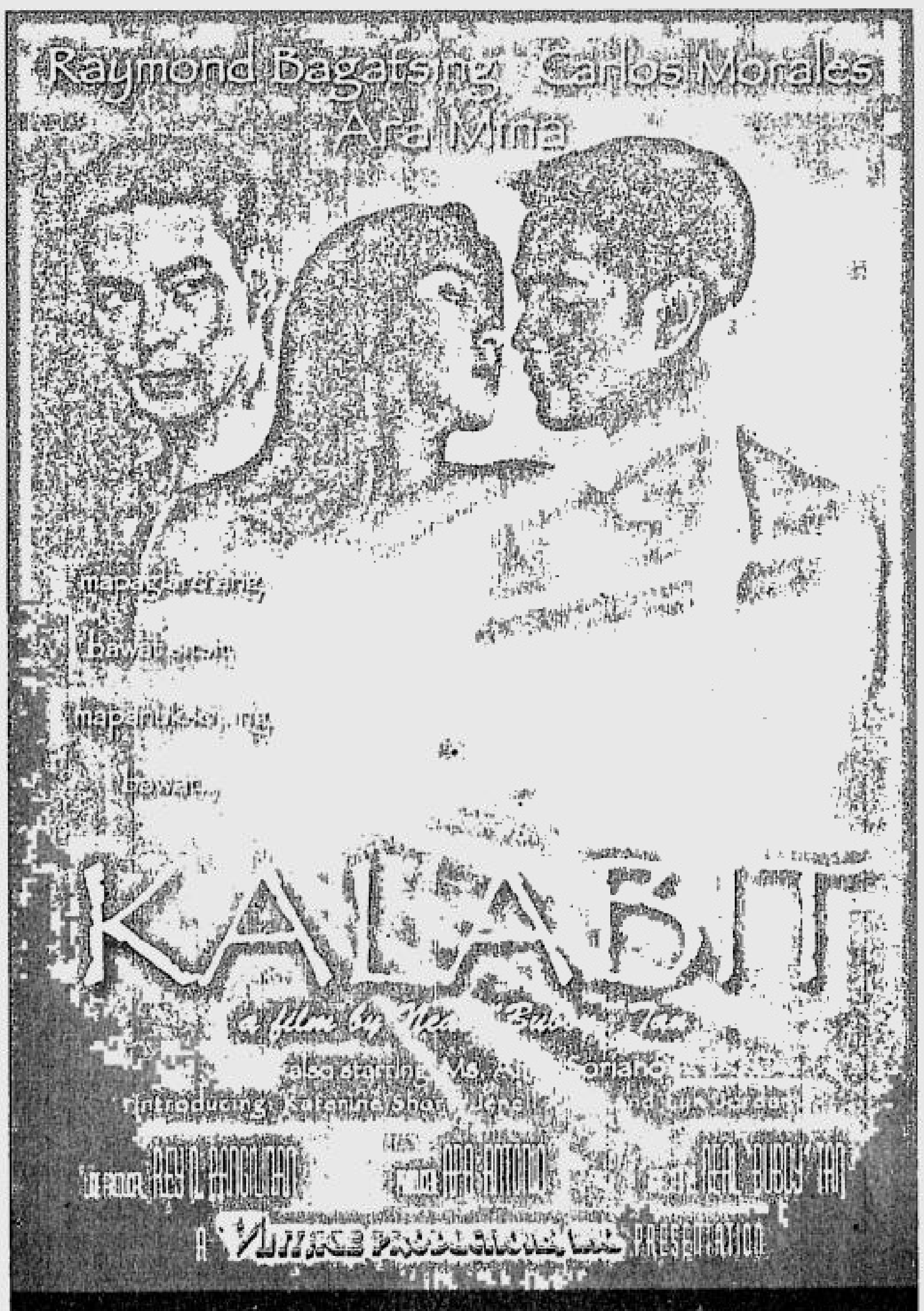

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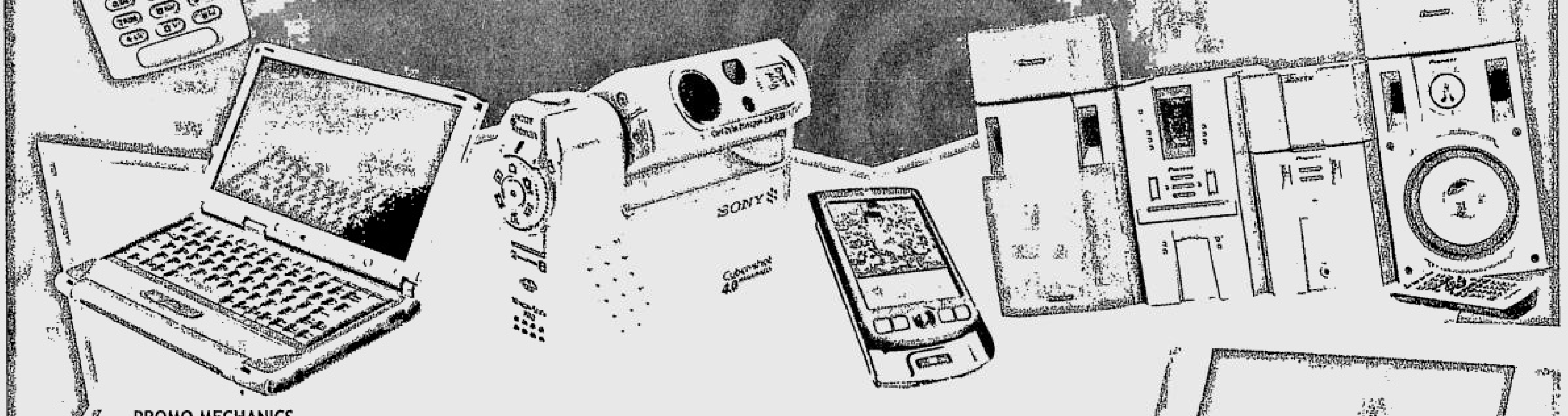

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- A print ad with the names of all winners will come out in the *2bU* section of the Inquirer on October 1, 2003.
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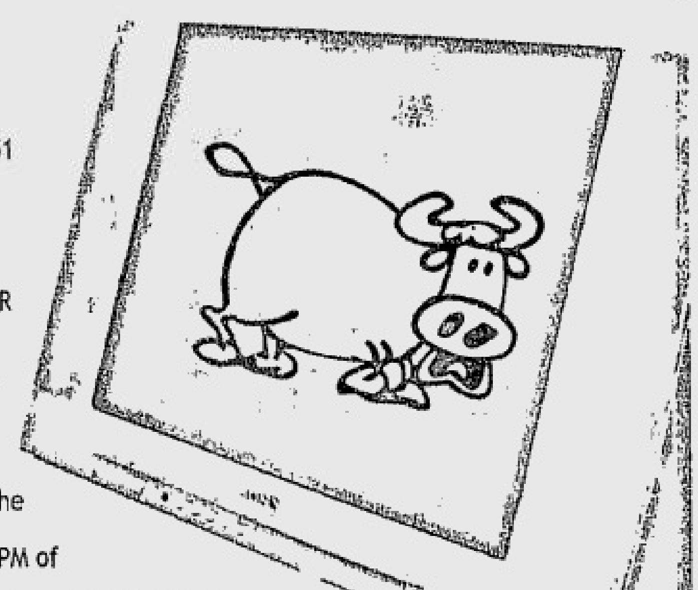

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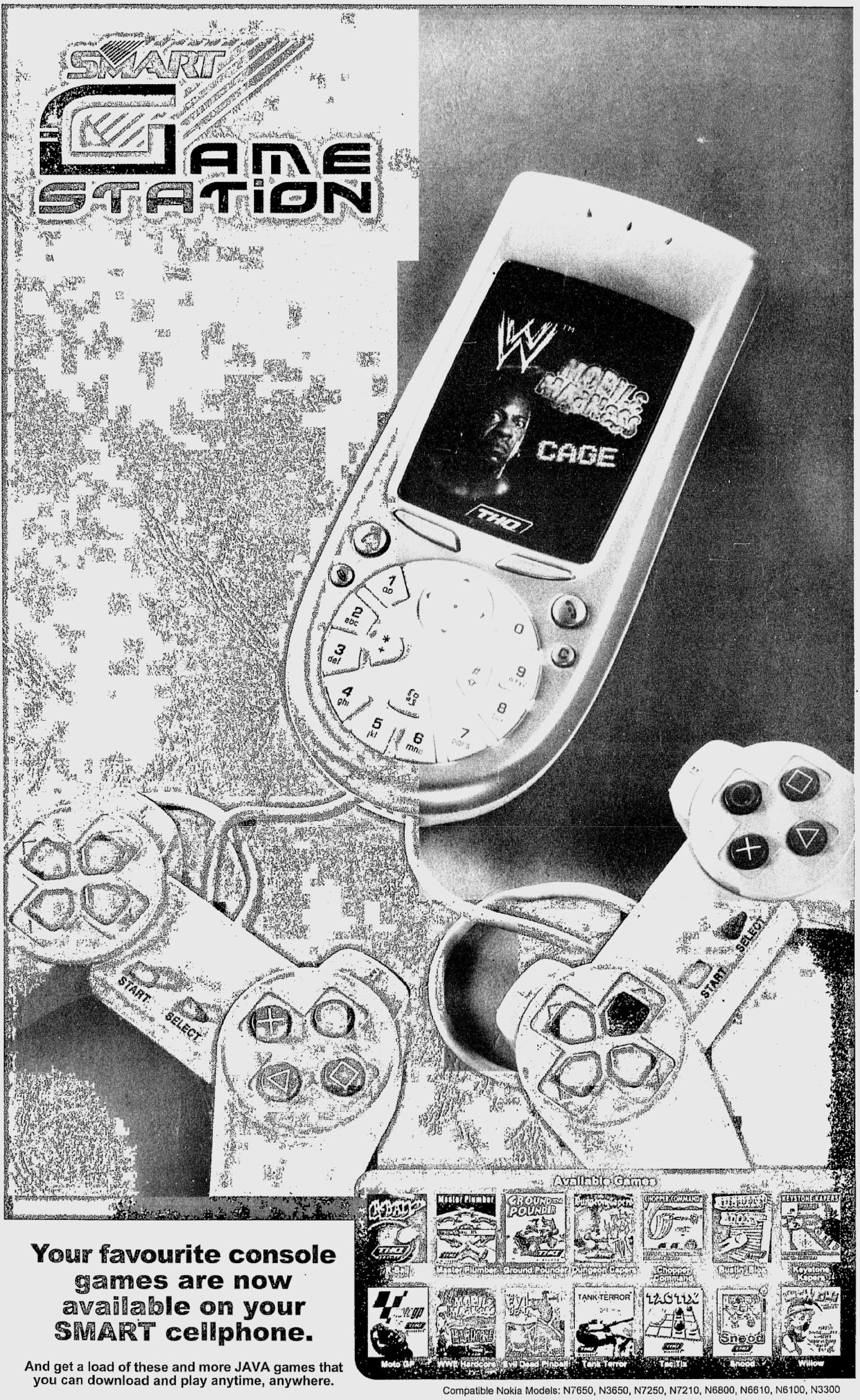
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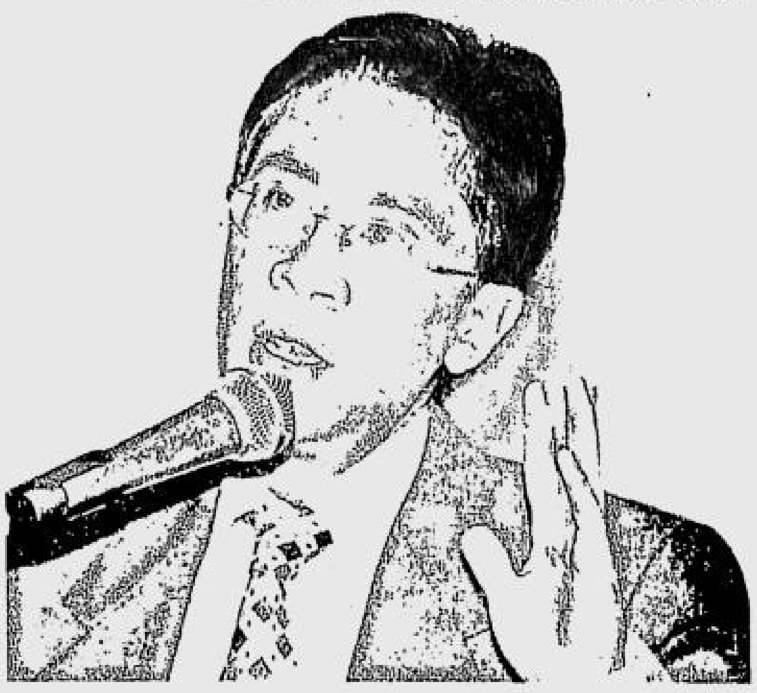


Focus on what you do and do it well; no need to be a genius

FIRST JOB

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ON a shelf in the guest room of J. Xavier "Eckie" B. Gonzales' home sits a green ceramic vase with pastoral figurines, German inscriptions and a hinged lid.

The vase, not unlike a teapot, may not merit a second look from guests but it occupies a special place in Gonzales' heart—it was the fruit of the very first money that he earned.

"My first paycheck was 300 Hong Kong dollars and my parents said I should use it to show appreciation for my grandparents. So I gave them the vase with a dedication. They have passed away, but I still have the vase," he says. Eckie lived with his grandparents during high school.

The 48-year-old Gonzales earned his paycheck in 1973 when he was just 17 and taking a break in Hong Kong after finishing high school at the Ateneo.

His father asked him to go to the former British Colony so that the family could live together for at least a year. The Gonzales have been maintaining two households, one in Hong Kong and one in the Philippines, since 1969 because of the demands of his father's job as consul general.

"I finished high school in '72, so to keep myself busy, I decided to (study) for one year under the British system, and subsequently decided to give work a try," Gonzales says.

Newspaper job

He worked for a Hong Kong newspaper called The Asian Newspaper where his father knew the editor, Johnny Gatbonton, who used to manage regional magazines.

"He knew the editor of The Asian Newspaper and I got my interview through that referral," he says.

Gonzales, however, is not without experience as he was managing editor of Highlights, Ateneo's school paper.

"I would go to school in the mornings and then I would work in the newspaper from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, 8 p.m. to 12 midnight on Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Thursdays usually extended themselves past midnight," he recalls.

Gonzales described his job as sitting on a high chair or standing, reading each page proof that was tacked on individual easels and putting editing marks on the final proofs on Friday.

These were the days before editing newspapers were done using computers.

"I learned a lot about the importance of communication from my job as a proofreader," he says.

Gonzales had the option to go to the United Kingdom and pursue his university education there, but he decided to return instead to Manila. He stayed with his grandparents while his parents and four siblings remained in Hong Kong.

He entered the University of the Philippines in 1973 and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Economics.

It was while applying to join the UP Economics Society in 1974 when he met his future wife Moppet Cenizal. They started dating in the summer of 1975 and eventually married in 1982.

Career path

When Gonzales graduated in 1976, his father was reassigned as chief of protocol in the Department of Foreign Affairs and his mother took over as consul general. By then his siblings were back in Manila to study so he decided to go to Hong Kong to stay with his mother.

"I applied with SGV and was hired in Hong Kong in the management consulting group. Late that year, I applied with Bancom International Ltd., the HK subsidiary of Bancom Development Corp., and was hired starting Jan. 1, 1977 in their financial engineering group. (PLDT president) Manuel V. Pangilinan was Executive Director in Bancom at that time," Gonzales says.

He would not stay long there though as Gonzales moved to the United States in the summer of 1978 to pursue graduate studies at the Harvard Business School where he obtained a Masters degree in Public Administration.

He met Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III as he was enrolling in Harvard. There were six Filipinos that year.

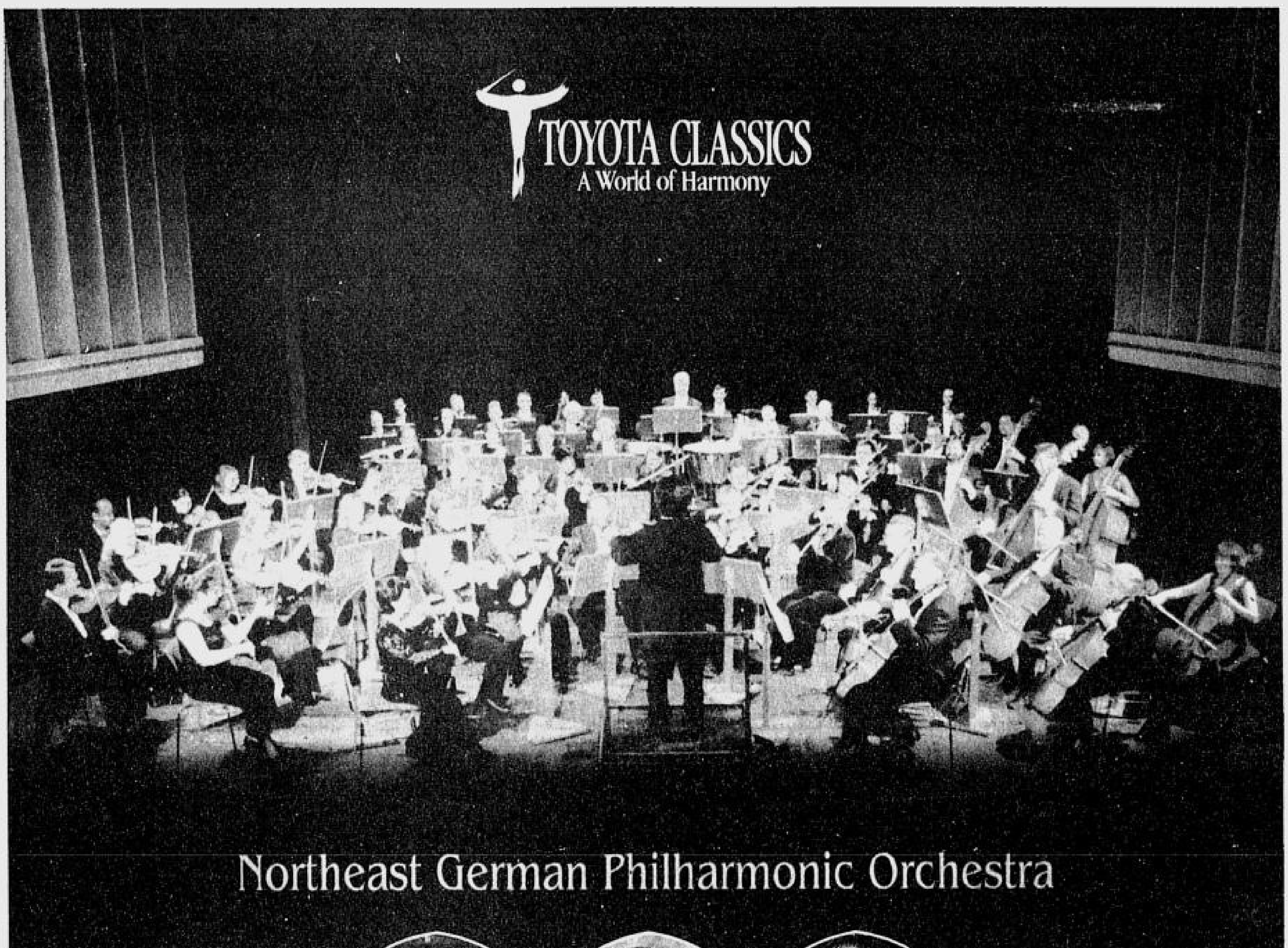
Fresh from Harvard, he spent over 12 years with Chemical Bank where he cut his teeth in the commercial banking business and exposed himself to consumer and wholesale banking as well as customer service.

He stayed in the US until 1982 during

FOCUS/B2

ECKIE during his SGV days in 1973. Eckie today (right)

ECKIE with his wife Moppet and five children.



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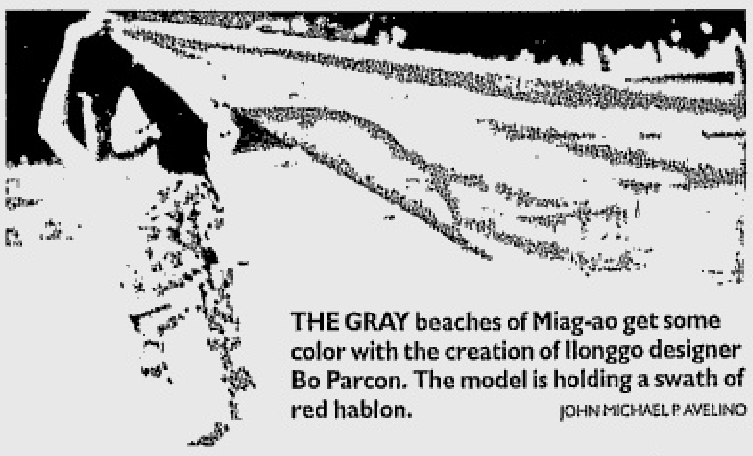
COUPLES FOR CHRIST GAWAD KALINGA

Weaving patadyong into today's avant-garde wear

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau



THE GRAY beaches of Miag-ao get some color with the creation of Ilonggo designer Bo Parcon. The model is holding a swath of red hablon. JOHN MICHAEL P. AVELINO

MIAG-AO, Iloilo—Weavers of handloom from this historic town have teamed up with a dynamic group of Ilonggo designers to prop up the *patadyong*, a native cotton fabric that once ran Iloilo's economy before the importation of cheap British cotton in the 1800s.

The patadyong woven by members of the Indag-an Multi-Purpose Cooperative (IMPC), a farmer's cooperative in Barangay Indag-an here has found its way into the designs of the Designers Guild of Iloilo City Inc. (DGII), a new group of Ilonggo fashion designers.

A MODEL wears a patadyong dress by Ilonggo designer Bo Parcon. TARA KATHERINE YAP

At the group's first fashion show called "Sepia" last Feb. 8 at the antique Sanson Y Montinola Antillan house on E. Lopez Street, Jaro district, the crowd of more than 300 saw the possibilities of the humble patadyong as haute couture material with the designers' experiments in gowns, casual wear and avant-garde fashion.

The eight Ilonggo members of DGII say that their "trademark" as a designer's group is their use and promotion of native fabrics such as the patadyong, also known as "traditional hablon (from the word 'habul,' Hiligaynon for 'to weave')."

The members are Francis Ian Chua, Cathy Ebrada, Sol Fernandez, Nonoy Jaranilla, Bo Parcon, Jaki Alcantara-Peñalosa, Don Protasio and Angelete Ragus.

Key to discovery

DGII might just be the key to the "discovery" of the patadyong as the experimental textile of choice of local designers. More importantly, they give hope to an almost dying trade that used to be a cottage industry in almost every barangay here. Now there are only six groups of patadyong weavers.

It was through the recommendation of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) that the DGII got to know of the Indag-an cooperative, which happens to have the most number of members at 72, among the "Katilingban sang Manoghabul sa Iloilo (Iloilo Weaver's Association)."

The cooperative has the oldest "grouping of weavers" in Miag-ao who were together for more than 40 years before it was formalized into a cooperative in the 1990s.

It currently stands on a 126-meter lot that rents for P100 a month. Shabby, with no concrete floor and poor lighting since 1991, the "factory" houses 10 looms with four others located outside because there is no more space inside.

"Our coop has continued the tradition of our grandparents since before World War II when they wove cotton from plants and turned them into patadyong, fine mosquito nets and blankets," says Leonida Morano, 53, chair of the IMPC.

Patadyong or "traditional hablon" is a strictly hand-woven textile made of *jusi* (banana fiber combined with silk thread), piña (fine and sheer cloth made of pineapple fiber) that the cooperative gets from Aklan province and locally grown silk.

Patadyong's cousin, the "indigenous *hablon*" is traditional hablon woven with indigenous materials like lemon grass, rice stalks, hay, cogon grass, copper wire, raffia, buri and leather which gives it variety when combined into woven fabric.

"Indigenous hablon" is differentiated from patadyong in that it simply goes by the name hablon.

Morano explained that the coop's 14 weavers make about seven types of patadyong: *pinalang-palang*, *linibat*, *rinadyo-radyo*, *pinutian*, Venus Sky, *balintawak* and *tres garilles*.

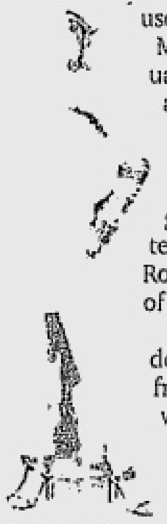
Into its weave

The designs were copied from the weavers' great grandparents, which are variations of squares colored red, yellow, white and black that are geometrically arranged.

One piece of patadyong, which takes a weaver a day or two to finish, costs between P50 and P200 per meter. The intricacy of the design and the materials are used as basis for costing.

Morano, a high school graduate, says the best sellers among designers are the patadyong interwoven with polyester and rotex that are shiny and best for gowns and, cotton and rotex that are used for *barongs*. Rotex is a stretch fabric made of rayon and nylon.

She says the cooperative does not fear competition from the Koreans or the Taiwanese because their machines cannot replicate the designs of the patadyong nor the fabric itself.



AN AVANT-GARDE design by Don Protasio. BUTCH TICAO

Local suppport

What's keeping the Indag-an cooperative alive aside from the support of the designers is Miag-ao Mayor Gerry Flores who has requested schools in Miag-ao and municipal employees to buy the hand-woven materials for their uniforms at the Indag-an Cooperative.

Even exclusive schools in Iloilo like the American School has been ordering yellow-blue-white patadyong for their school uniform since 1998.

"Sepia" director Bombette Marin said the patadyong as the designers' "cause" came into being when the Iloilo Heritage Council proposed a fashion show to highlight local fabrics from Iloilo.

DGII member Jaki Peñalosa says she fancies the Indag-an patadyong for its class and beauty and most especially because she can request the weavers to work on her own designs and colors.

For avant-garde designer Don Protasio, "the charm of patadyong is the imperfection of the fabric itself." The 23-year-old biology graduate who took up a course in clothing technology in Manila uses patadyong in his designs for the "effect" it has. "There's the ravel, the uneven squares—and that makes patadyong unique."

Protasio calls patadyong the "in" fabric of 2003 which he envisions as trendy club wear for young people, "done the avant-garde way."

The members of DGII are looking forward to projects, some of which will be using both traditional and indigenous patadyong in their designs.

The group had a Holiday Collection this August in Iloilo, "Guimaras" in Intramuros this Oct. 3 where the designers will be heavily using patadyong, and "Fashion Forecast" this November at Robinson's Iloilo.

Meantime, the weavers of Indag-an Multi-Purpose Cooperative keep on weaving the patadyong and doing their part in keeping a backyard industry alive.

MEMBERS of the Designers Guild of Iloilo Inc. TARA KATHERINE YAP

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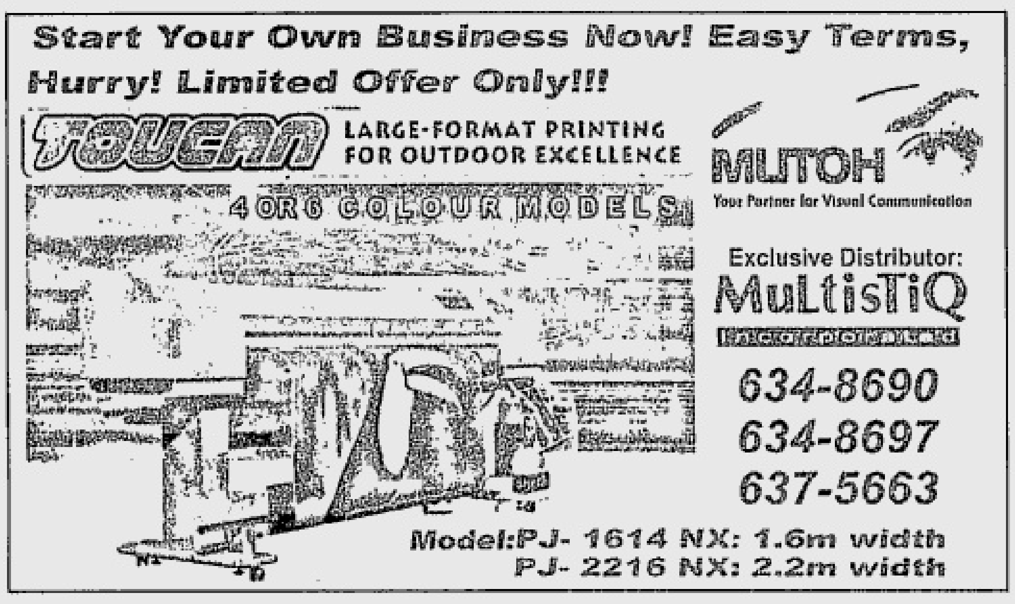

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Focus on what you do and do it well

From page B1

which he got married and had four children. He could have stayed on in the US and continued working with Chemical Bank but he decided to come back to the Philippines and raise his children here.

"I just wanted to come home after many years abroad and I wanted my children to be raised here, to have the proper values," Gonzales explains.

Going back to Manila

Since he had been out of the country for so long, his friends encouraged him to join a Rotary Club so that he could get back into the swing of things and meet new people.

"I initially wanted to put up a consultancy firm and do something entrepreneurial but then I met Gabby again and he says I should just meet his father and work for the group," he says.

The Lopezes first hired Gonzales as chief financial officer, but he was soon promoted to chief operating officer of Benpres Corp., the holding company of the Lopez group of companies.

He was instrumental in building the infrastructure business for the group in cable, telecommunications, water, toll roads and property. He and his team raised over $1 billion in foreign loans to bankroll these projects.

He says he had to adjust to the Philippine way of doing business as he has never worked for a Filipino company before. But he quickly got the hang of it and his flair for being able to communicate with people was one of the reasons behind it.

Gonzales stayed with the Lopezes until end 2002. Then he, with a group of investors, bought out the Lopez' stake in a call center Customer Contact Center Inc. (C-cubed), which provides the customer service requirements of big foreign companies.

He became an entrepreneur after all and Gonzales says that being responsible for his own business is in many ways different from working for a good employer.

"I am more excited because it is entrepreneurship and it is larger, global and I look after close to 1,000 people. Benpres was pretty much about capital as opposed to people. Now it's harder because it is more personal and I have to be responsible for it day and night," he says.

Gonzales, however, says that the idea of building a business gets his adrenaline going in a way that being employed cannot do.

"Developing C-cubed and the call center business itself presents a great development opportunity for the Philippines. We can do partnering to develop schools and other industry groups and we can even bring it to the provinces and provide jobs," he says.

Looking back, Gonzales says it may sound trite but he got to where he is because of perseverance and hard work.

"You don't have to be a genius to be able to do well. You just have to focus on what you do know and do it well," he says.

Gonzales also believes in the value of having the full support of his wife and children.

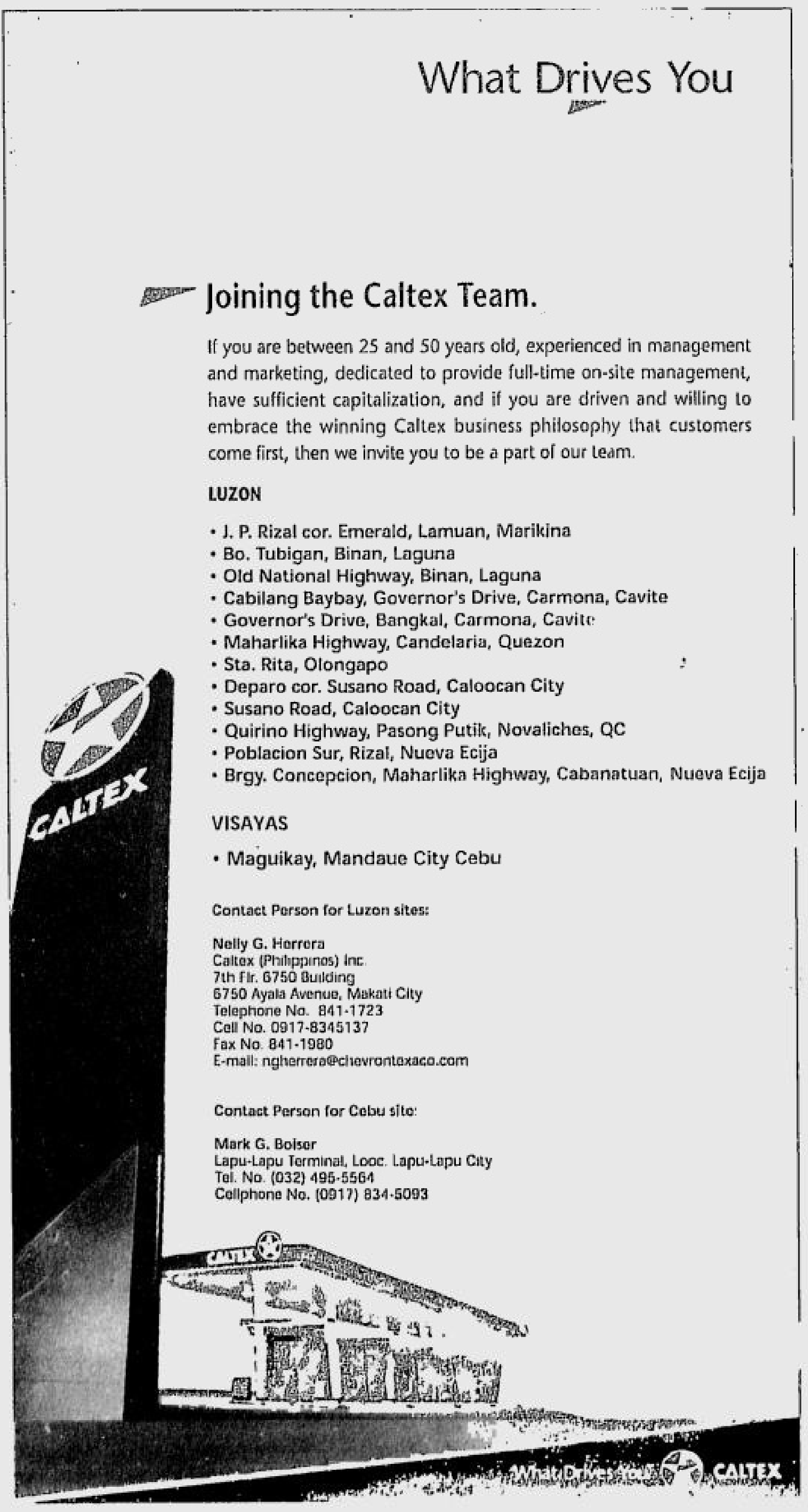
"We share similar passions—for the outdoors, culture and family. And of course, there is no wiser soulmate during trying times, and no better mirror to my own shortcomings and aspirations," he stresses.

Gonzales now has five children. The eldest, Ziggie, is in his 3rd year at the Ateneo taking BS Management Economics, Kayelle is 1st year AB Social Studies, Cibbie is 2nd year high school in Ateneo while Muriel and Lyriel are Grades 7 and 3, respectively, at the Waldorf School.

Gonzales may be one busy chief executive but it is not unusual for him to take time out to take care of any of his children's needs.

Being responsible for others is also a role that he takes seriously as chief executive. Gonzales says he has to constantly think about bringing down barriers between him and employees. He says it is vital to realize the potential of people to be able to bring out their best, which ultimately will bring out the best in the company.

That is his latest challenge as Gonzales wants to grow C-cubed into the country's premier call center despite considerable competition in the growing outsourcing industry.



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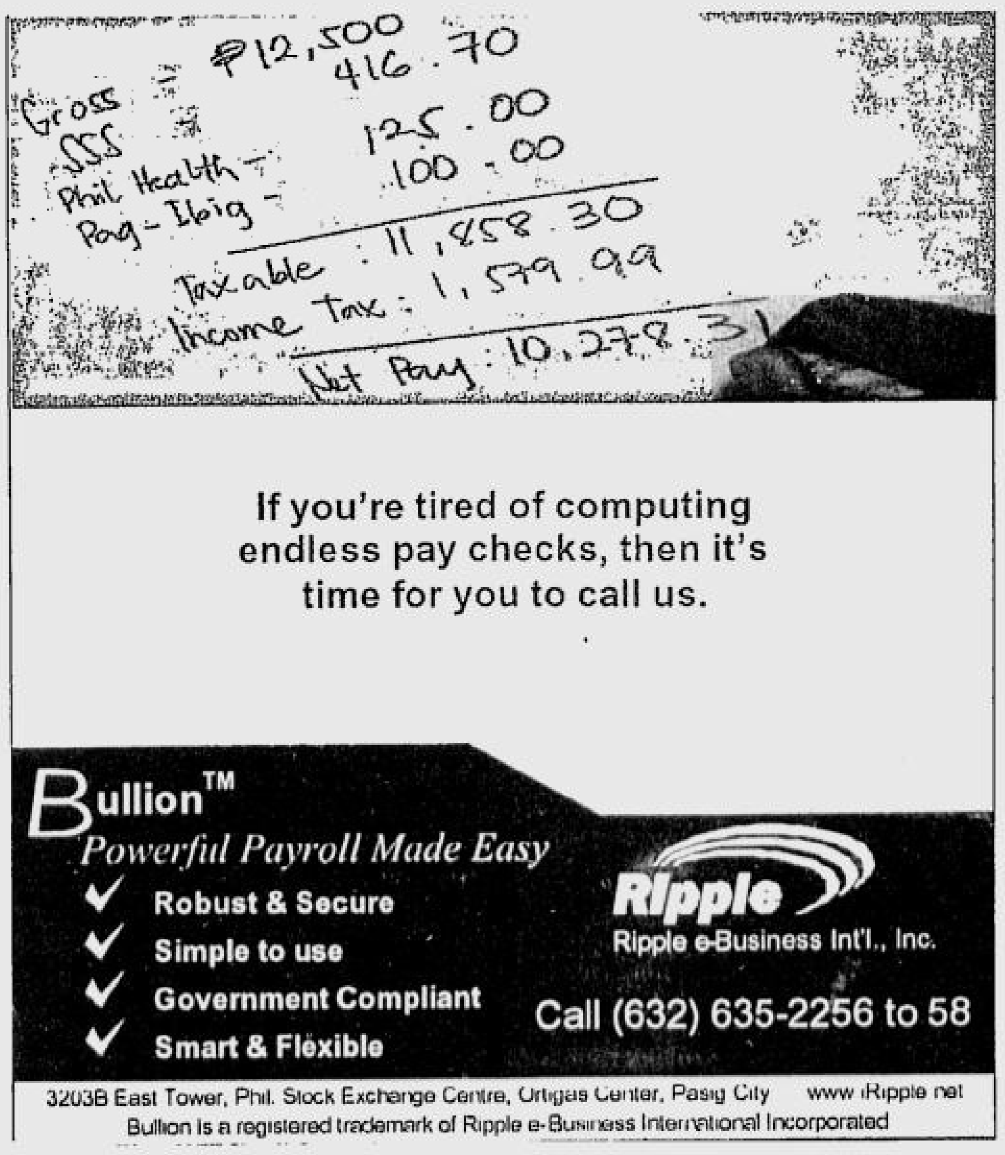

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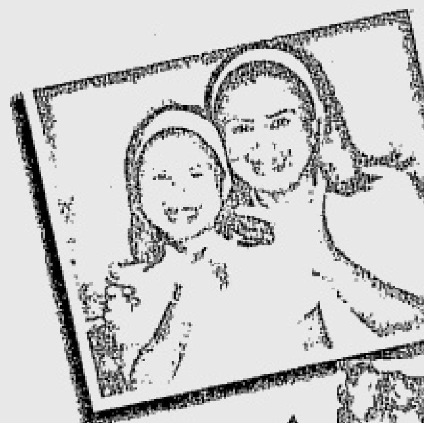
Two peas in a pod

BayanTel announces winners of mother and daughter look-alike photo contest



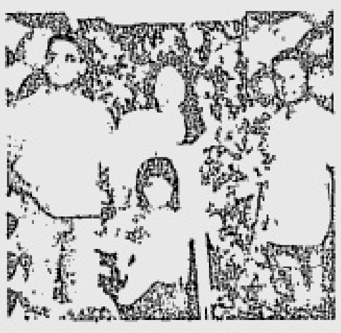
Mother and Daughter look-alike photo contest grand prize winner and Best Kodak Pair Ruth and Allison Reyes

(From left) BayanTel CFO Gary Olivar, Ruth and Allison Reyes, Debbie Go of Gardenia and Joie Oliveros of Bioessence

Like Mother Like Daughter Look-alike phot

"*I didn't expect this!* " gushed Mrs. Ruth Reyes, who along with daughter Allison, were named as grand prize winner of the mother and daughter look-alike photo contest organized by Bayan Telecommunications *(BayanTel)* and Kodak Philippines.

Ruth, a mother of three, and eight year old grade 2 student Allison bested other BayanTel subscribers who submitted their best mother and daughter look-alike pictures for the top prize of almost P35,000 worth in cash and prizes.

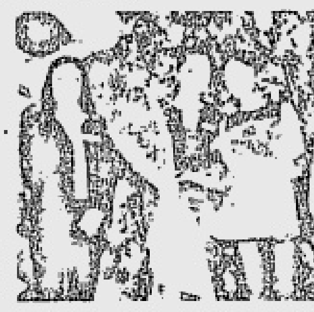


1st runner-up winner Angelina & Mary Joy Toca with BayanTel vice president Rodrigo Montinola (left) and Rammel Bigyan of Gardenia

2nd runner-up winners Evangeline & Jonina Villacorta (center), with from left) Cherry Dar Santos of Cadbury and Avon Representative

Mrs. Angelina Toca, a market vendor from Malabon, and her daughter Mary Joy were awarded 1st prize while Mrs. Evangeline Villacorta, a homemaker, and her 17-year old daughter Jonina were named 2nd prize winner.

Two special awards were given also to the mother and daughter tandems of Eloisa and Kyle Calatero and Girlie and Thammy Peña for submitting the Funniest Shots.



(From left) Leonard Lacanienta of Love Electronics awards Girlie & Thammy Peña the special award for Funniest Shot

Mr. Rodrigo Montinola, BayanTel vice president for residential markets said: "*We are very happy with the strong response from our subscribers to this event. Their enthusiasm to the contest shows the good relationship we have with our subscribers*"

Mr. Montinola led the board of judges who chose the winners along with Mr. Leonard Lacanienta of Love Electronics, BayanTel Vice President Mike Cervantes, Tricia Aquino of Kodak and Joie Oliveros of Bioessence.

(From left) Eloisa & Kyle Shallimi Calatero also received an award for Funniest Shot from [illegible] Santos of Triumph and [illegible] Poblete of Insular Life

From August to November, Mr. Montinola shared that BayanTel subscribers can win entertainment and kitchen packages by just paying their bills on time with the *Pay-on-Time, Win Big Time* raffle promo

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the following project partners: *Kodak, Bioessence, Avon, Cadbury, Love Electronics, Gardenia, Insular Life, PH Care, Dino Expo, Phil Daily Inquirer, Triumph, Tupperware (Rejoice Party Sales), Metro Working Mom, Nestle Ice Cream, Nesvita, Chamyto, Nescafe and Maggi*

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Technical Education and Skills Development Project
TESDA Complex, Fort Bonifacio, East Service Road
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TESDA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

August 31, 2003
ADB Loan No. 1750 PHI
OPEC Loan No. 841 P

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-financed with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for New Construction/Refurbishment/Completion/Extension of the following 21 Centers of Technical Excellence (CENTEXes):

Institution Per Region	Location
Region I	
1. Marcos Agro-Industrial School	Bgy. Lydia, Marcos, Ilocos Norte
Region II	
2. Aparri School of Arts and Trades	Maura, Aparri, Cagayan
3. Southern Isabela College of Arts and Trades	Calaocan, Santiago City, Isabela
Region III	
4. Regional Training Center	Guiguinto, Bulacan
Region IV-A	
5. Jacobo J. Gonzales Memorial School of Arts and Trades	San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna
Region IV-B	
6. Puerto Princesa School of Arts and Trades	Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
7. Alcantara National Trade School	Alcantara, Romblon
Region V	
8. San Francisco Institute of Science and Technology	San Francisco, Malilipot, Albay
Region VI	
9. Passi Trade School	Brgy. Sablogon, Passi, Iloilo
10. Dumalag Vocational Technical School	Dumalag, Capiz
Region VII	
11. Regional Training Center	Arch. Reyes Avenue, Banilad, Cebu
Region VIII	
12. Balicuatro College of Arts and Trades	Allen, Northern Samar
Region IX	
13. Dipolog School of Fisheries	Olingan, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte
14. Kabasalan National Vocational School	Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay
Region X	
15. Oroquieta Agro-Industrial School	Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental
16. Cagayan de Oro (Bugo) School of Arts and Trades	Bugo, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental
17. Salvador Trade School	Salvador, Lanao del Norte
Region XII	
18. General Santos School of Arts and Trades	Tiongco St., Gen. Santos [illegible] Cotabato
NCR	
19. Marikina Institute of Science and Technology	Oriole St., Marikina City
20. Quezon City Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center	Fairview, Quezon City
CAR	
21. Baguio City School of Arts and Trades	Upper Session Road, Baguio

2. Bidding is open to all bidders from source countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

3. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the New Construction/Refurbishment/Completion/Extension of the CENTEXes ("the Works") in the aforesaid institutions.

4. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, beginning September 1, 2003 at the Office of the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC), between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm from Monday to Friday, at the following TESDA Regional Offices.

Region	Location/Mailing Address	Facsimile No.	Telephone No.
I	Catbangen San Fernando, La Union	(72) 700-0613	[illegible] 388 [illegible]
II	Carig, Tuguegarao, Cagayan	(78) 846-7142/ 846-82[illegible]	[illegible] 44
III	Brgy. Maimpis, San Fernando, Pampanga	(45) 961-5334	51[illegible]
IV-A	TESDA Complex, East Service Road Taguig, Metro Manila	887-5781	
IV-B	TESDA Complex, East Service Road Taguig, Metro Manila	888-675	
	Rawis, Legaspi City	(52) 820-6323, TeleFax	
VI	Zamora St. Iloilo City	(33) 335-0860 TeleFax	[illegible]
VII	Archbishop Reyes Ave., Banilad, Cebu City	(32) 231-1596	[illegible] 412-7465
VIII	Abucay, Tacloban City	(53) 325-9375 PT&T	4365/ [illegible] TeleFax
IX	San Roque, Zamboanga City	(62) 991-3229	[illegible]
X	Jupiter St., Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City	(8822) 721-843	81[illegible]
XII	LTP Compound, Cotabato City	(64) 421-1861	(64) 421-109[illegible]
NCR	TESDA Complex, East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila	815-3343: TeleFax	815-3343: Telef[illegible]
CAR	Km. 247 Magsaysay Drive, Loakan Road, Baguio City	(74) 447-2558	(74) 44[illegible]

5. A complete set of bidding documents per CENTEX may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the concerned office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) per bid document at the Regional Cashier's Office.

6. The RBAC's shall conduct their respective Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 am of September 15, 2003, during which all clarification related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.

All bids must be accompanied by a security of 1.00% of the total bid price, and must be delivered at the concerned Office of the RBAC at or before 10:00 a.m. on October 1, 2003. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder representatives who choose to attend.

(Sgd.) ALCESTIS M. GUIANG
Director General

(PDI-Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2003)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

Offered for Public Bidding on an "as-is, where-is" basis are the assets formerly belonging to Pioneer Glass Manufacturing Corporation (PGMC) consisting of parcels of land, buildings, machinery and transportation equipment located at Rosario, Cavite, at Sitio Lawis, Brgy. Alimango, Escalante City and at Purok Sherman Hills, Brgy. Baviera, Sagay City, both located in Negros Occidental

Lot No.	Description	Indicative Price
I	Buildings, machinery and Transportation equipment	P 3,047,000
II*	Land (10.29 hectares) located at Rosario, Cavite	175,042,000
III	Land (1.84 hectares) located at Sitio Lawis, Brgy. Alimango, Escalante City Negros Occidental	157,000
IV	Land (23.28 hectares) located at Purok Sherman Hills, Brgy. Baviera, Sagay City, Negros Occidental	2,561,000
TOTAL		P 180,807,200

* Bids submitted for Lot II will be opened only in the event that there are bids submitted for Lot 1.

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders on 24 September 2003, at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the Asset Specific Bidding Rules (ASBR), Asset Specific Bidding Form (ASBF) together with the Asset Specific Catalogue (ASC) for a nominal fee of P500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office.

In the event this bidding fails, PMO reserves the right to consider proposals submitted for the above assets.

For more information, please call Ms. Nadine M. Atilano of the PMO Marketing Office at 817-8762/892-2145.

(PDI-Sept. 7, 2003)

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OTHER AREAS

BAGUIO/TERMS 0919-6272909

LAGUNA

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA132m² 3Bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27/25

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Villa Olympia Tel 7702155

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P3 295M 8903461 loc 34

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,473/m Vic 8903461 loc. 25

MANILA

Agoncillo 460m² 8223291

MANDALUYONG

300m² Plainview nr CTHall No Flood NICE LOCATION 8230173 / 0920-8507484

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Reggie Cruz - 09175393504

PASIG

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TOWN&COUNTRY LA160m² P3200/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

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SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

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•Moms-Ladies: Extra Income! Be in Business No Delivery Inventory 0917-5320224

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•Direct Sellers Retailers Distributors Nationwide New Extremely Consumables Products• 0917-5320224

•Network Leaders Only! New Sustained Opportunity Call Now 0917-5320224

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Wilma Quirante-Warta and Carla Quirante-Warta have executed an extrajudicial settlement acknowledged before Notary Public Agerico M. Ungson under Document No. 62 Page No. 13 Book 11 Series of 2003 (PDI- September 7, 2003)

PERSONAL

THANK YOU ST.JUDE FOR ALL THE FAVORS AND BLESSINGS -LSP FAMILY-

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

THANK YOU ST.JUDE,MAMA MARY AND GOD FOR GIVING LALA A SECOND LIFE
- CEDRIC AND LALA-

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Stock Certificate No. 036638 issued by AYALA CORPORATION, in the name of "BPI TA FAO POBLADOR AZADA" for Ninety Six Thousand (96,000) shares in AYALA CORPORATION-Common was lost.
In case of recovery, please contact STANDARD CHARTERED BANK TRUST & INVESTMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT c/o Grace Suarez at tel. nos. 886-7888 local 2926 or 878-2926.
(PDI- Aug. 31,Sept.7 & 14, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation
[illegible]

INVITATION TO BID
TOTAL LOSS VEHICLES
(AS IS, WHERE IS)

VEHICLE	FLR PRICE
1995 HONDA ESI	P 130,000.
1995 L-300 AL VAN	75,000.
1996 COROLLA	160,000.
2000 SINSKI M CYCLE	20,000.
SALVAGED PARTS	7,500.

Pls. Call Herbert / Laarni -
844-7044, 580-6800

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

LLOYD'S FINANCING is in need of sub-agent for diff.area: Pasig/Pasay/Cainta/Las Pinas/QC & Cavite Earn P50T or more while at home Pls. Call at 897-6644 to 46/Gemma

MOMS & TEACHERS EXTRA CASH LIMITED SLOTS 0917-6251197

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NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET
Call POEA at
722-1144
722-1155

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS & WOFEX 2004
WORLD'S FOOD EXPO
August 4 - 7, 2004 * World Trade Center, Metro Manila

Greetings from the INQUIRER Classifieds and WOFEX 2004!

After the initial success of the first World's Food Expo Supplement last August which got a lot of favorable reviews and business opportunities for the companies that placed ads in the said issue, we're back to provide another issue destined to be the industry's reference of choice.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and WOFEX are working together to come out with a very special supplement that will feature products and services in the food & beverage industry

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the country's growing food industry. This Pre-Christmas Edition will be your best bet in getting ahead of the competition for that lucrative CHRISTMAS RUSH!

WORLD'S FOOD EXPO SUPPLEMENT

PRE-CHRISTMAS EDITION

The supplement is scheduled FOR RELEASE on NOVEMBER 21, 2003. In line with this, we are providing you with the following very special advertising rates :

FULL PAGE AD (23cm x 30cm)	=	P 51,096.00
HALF PAGE AD (23cm x 15cm)	=	P 25,350.00
QUARTER PAGE (11.5cm x 15cm)	=	P 15,620.00
SUPPLIER LISTING (5m x 3cm, text only)	=	P 5,000.00

- Full color advertising with NO color surcharge (except SUPPLIER LISTING)
- Reasonable ad rates in the most read broadsheet in the land
- A most cost efficient and effective advertising medium

ADVERTISING CONTRACT

Yes, we agree to place a ________ page ad in the World's Food Expo Supplement in the amount of P_______.00. We also agree to submit the ad material in TIF, EPS or JPEG format no later than November 3, 2003.

Name ____________ Company ____________
Position ____________ Address ____________
____________ Tel. No. ____________ Fax No. ____________
Email ____________ Website ____________ Signature ____________

CONTACT INFORMATION

Premier Events Plus Group, Inc.
Unit 203 Golden Legacy Bldg., 98 Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, Q.C
Tel. (632) 4364711/12, 9297963/93 Fax: 4364898 Email: info@PEPGroup.com Website: www.PEPGroup.com

KANEPACKAGE PHILIPPINE INC.

Fast growing Japanese Company that belongs to top 500 Corporation located in Calamba City is seeking for dynamic professionals to join its team.

The positions we are looking for are:

POSITION	QUALIFICATIONS
LOGISTIC MANAGER & ASST. LOGISTIC MANAGER AGE : 25 yrs. old and above SEX : M	➢ College graduate with 2 years related experience in manufacturing set-up. ➢ Broad exposure in area of trucking and scheduling preferably in packaging products from Japanese company. ➢ Pro-active, willing to work long hours; good moral character & team player. ➢ Knowledge in ISO is an advantage.
QA MANAGER & QA SUPV. AGE : 30 yrs. old and above SEX : M/F	➢ College graduate with at least 3 years related experience in similar position. ➢ With high commitment in the concept of quality assurance. ➢ Preferably had exposure in ISO. ➢ Can work under pressure.
ACCOUNTING STAFF AGE : 20-30 yrs. old SEX : F	➢ Accounting graduate with experience in manufacturing company. ➢ Familiar in accounting computerized system of AR/AP/Bank Recon/PCV. ➢ Can work long hours and under pressure.
TRUCK DRIVERS & COMPANY DRIVERS AGE : 25-35 yrs. old SEX : M	➢ At least college level with valid driver's license. ➢ Min. 2 years experience on same field. ➢ Willing to work long hours and under pressure. ➢ Neat, presentable, good moral character. ➢ Can able to communicate well in English. Good moral character.

We offer good salary package, excellent advancement and growth for the successful candidates.

If you think you are qualified, please send your resumé to:

The General Affairs Department
#5 Ring Road, LISP II, La Mesa, Calamba, Laguna
Tel#: (049) 545-7166 to 69 loc. 26

A reputable Rural Bank based in Metro Manila is in need of:

MARKETING OFFICER

Promotes bank product and services. Conceptualizes and implements marketing strategies in order to meet objectives within formulated and approved policies and procedures.

- Marketing graduate or related 4-year course.
- Experience in bank operations and loan processing.
- Good in oral and written communication.
- Computer literate.

Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to our corporate office at **#9 Capricorn St., Carmel V Subd., Banlat, Tandang Sora, Q.C.**
Tel#939-6358/70

PHILIPPINE 2000

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

Early Childhood Development Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No. ECDP-ADB/03-DSWD-001

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in various currencies towards the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project (Loan No. ADB-ADF 1607-PHI). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under this Contract.

Printing of 400,200 copies
Developing Readiness Skills: Materials for Pupils (DRS)

2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Printing of the Department of Education Developing Readiness Skills to School Divisions in Regions VII & XII.
3. International Shopping procedure will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage One Envelop System and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and purchase the complete bidding documents starting September 8, 2003 upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00)**, to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines with tel. nos. (632) 931-8161 & 931-8101 to 07 loc. 125, fax no. (632) 951-7116.
5. All sealed bids (complete with requirements) must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2% of total bid amount in the form of a bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, manager's check, cashier's or certified check valid for 90 days and must be delivered to the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Administrative Building on **8 October 2003** at 2:00 p.m. **Late bids shall be rejected.**
6. The Department of Social Welfare and Development will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
7. Prior to bid opening, a **pre-bid conference** will be held on **24 September 2003**, 10:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 5.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **8 October 2003**, 2:00 p.m. at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Administrative Building, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Complex.
9. The Department of Social Welfare and Development reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formality in the bids received or to accept such bids which may be considered most responsive and advantageous.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, DSWD-BAC-I

(PDI - Aug 31 & Sept 7, 2003)

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Or call:
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Tel#s: *374-6667 or 374-6671*

A GROUND FLOOR OPPORTUNITY you shouldn't miss!!!

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office
CENTRAL PROJECT OFFICE

DAR

Nothern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resources Management Project

(NMCIREMP)

INVITATION TO RESOURCE NGOs/INSTITUTIONS/ INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The DAR/IFAD-NMCIREMP invites interested **Resource Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)/Institutions/Individual Consultants** for pre-qualification for the provision of services to project stakeholders (agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), indigenous people (IPs), fisherfolk, upland farmers, operational NGOs, LGUs, NCIP) in selected communities of Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon (Impasug-ong). The work will entail provision of technical and training services under the following components: 1) Community Institutions and Participatory Development, 2) Community Investments, 3) Natural Resources Management, 4) Support Services and Studies, 5) Support for Indigenous People, and 6) Project Management.

Interested NGOs, institutions and individual consultants with relevant experience/expertise must submit the following:

I. **NGOs/Institutions**
   a) Letter of Intent
   b) Profile indicating (complete name, contact details, area of competence, capability statement, staff complement, funding sources, operating sites, year of establishment, registration details - year, number, registering office, linkages, networks, history of working engagements with LGU, DA, DENR, NCIP and other government bodies, references, others)
   c) Rural Development Concept (2 to 3 pages)

II. **Individual Consultants**
   a) Letter of Intent
   b) Comprehensive Resume
   c) References

Where to submit:

The Project Director
NMCIREMP
c/o DAR Regional Office
3rd Floor Samping Building, South Montilla Blvd.
Butuan City

Please indicate interest for pre-qualification whether as Resource NGO, Institution or Individual Consultant. The deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents is on **15 September 2003**. Additional details/information may be obtained from NMCIREMP office in Butuan City (Tel No. (085) 341-9061 and DAR-FAPsO M & E Division, Diliman, Quezon City (Tel. No. 927-0752/ 928-7031 to 39 loc. 112).

(Sgd.) **Project Director**
NMCIREMP

(PDI - Aug 31 & Sept. 7, 2003)

Trans Co

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

September 4, 2003

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation South Luzon Operation & Maintenance invites interested Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking listed hereunder:

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Budget
TRANS-03-IPLNL-EG-08, Installation of Additional Perimeter Lighting at Naga Converter Station and Labo Substation	Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte	60 calendar days	Php 1,185,995.25	ICG

The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of Furnishing of All Labor, Materials Supplies, Tools, Equipment, Supervision & Other Incidentals necessary for the Installation of Additional Perimeter Lighting at Naga Converter Station and Labo Substation.

Application for eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCB. *(Application is also open to a joint venture of Filipino and foreign contractors with PCAB License for this project)*

License Particular	at least "Category C or D – General Building"
Registration Particular	at least "Small B – Building and Industrial Plant" (Power Transmission and Distribution)

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting Sept. 08, 2003 at the Regional Contracts Management Office, NTC Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No., 520-8213 and E-mail Address: grlistano@transco.ph) upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P600.00 per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 10:00 AM of September 30, 2003 and shall be submitted at the office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

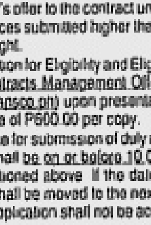
Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address. *(Note: This invitation was based on the latest amendments dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 of implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 1594 & Executive Order 40).*

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
Manager, PSMD-North/
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

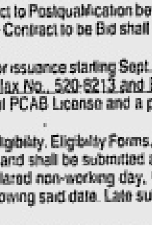
(PDI – September 7 & 15, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons whose names, last known addresses, and pictures appear below are presently charged with "Qualified Theft" before the Regional Trial Court of Makati City, Branch 145, Crim Case No. 03-1057:



Caroline Magcase Taningco
281 San Agustin,
Alaminos, Laguna
or 7256 J. Victor Street,
Pio Del Pilar, Makati City



May Joy Isagonde Llamelo
234-C Galino St. 11th Ave.,
Quezon City, or B-4 Damata,
Letre, Tonsuya, Malabon City or
Esperanza Jamindan, Capiz

Jovelyn Luenco Sombrano
3298 V. Mapa St., Sta. Mesa Manila or
Clarin, Bohol

For further information please call the office of
UY CLERIGO & DE GUZMAN LAW OFFICES at tel. nos. 243-6170 or 73

JOB OPENING

AT MAKATI OFFICE

Visit Us AT
Suite 808 8th Flr. AXA Life Centre
(formerly PS Bank Tower)
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
(beside Makati Post Office)

WE NEED

- COLLEGE GRADUATE of at least 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
- Individuals who have a good command of English or Chinese Language
- Energetic men and women of at least 20 years old and above
- Willing to start immediately (not presently employed or enrolled)
- Willing to undergo comprehensive training

WE OFFER

- **A STARTING PAY OF ABOVE AVERAGE INCOME**
- Company sponsored training
- Incentives and other benefits
- Career growth and development with our automatic promotion system
- A chance to join Local and International trips with the Top Management Group

*Come in **PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE** and **PLEASE bring two (2) passport-sized pictures,** complete resumé and valid ID on Monday and Tuesday (September 8 and 9, 2003) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **PLEASE CLIP THIS AD***

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PHILIPPINE 2000

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Loan No. 7147 PH
IFB No. KALAHI CIDSS-03/DSWD-007

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project. (Loan No. 7147 PH). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), KALAHI-CIDSS Project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following items:

Lot Number	*Quantity/ies*	*Particulars*
1	*18*	*notebook computers*
2	*30*	*desk top computers*
3	*31*	*uninterruptible power supply*
4	*13*	*External CD Writer*
5	*4*	*USB Pen Drive*
6	*3*	*Laserjet Printer*
7	*2*	*External Hard Drive*
8	*9*	*Wireless Mouse*
9	*1*	*36 port Switch Hub*

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits are open to all bidders from eligible countries as defined in the guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and secure the complete set of bidding documents, upon presentation of a letter of intent to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Property and Supply Division, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting September 08, 2003, on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) per copy*
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than *Two (2%) percent* of the total bid price in a form of bank guarantee from a reputable commercial bank, irrevocable letter of credit, Manager's Check, Cashier or Certified check, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected.
8. Prior to bid opening a Pre-bid Conference will be held on *September 24, 2003, 9:00 a.m.* at the Administrative Conference Room, DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines.
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on *October 08, 2003; 4:00 p.m.*

The Chairperson
c/o BAC Secretariat
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Administrative Conference Room, DSWD Building
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. (632) 931-8161
Fax: (632) 951-7116

(Sgd.) Asst. Sec. RHODA F. YAP
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee-I

(PDI - Sept 7 & 14, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF :
:
3H FINANCE AND INVESTMENT :
CORPORATION :

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in accordance with Sections 2, 4 and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to implement the Provisions of R.A. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998). Its principal office shall be located at Unit 11 [illegible] Business Center #17 J.P. Rizal St., Cabuyao, Laguna.

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

Authorized Capital Stock	P2,500,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock	850,000.00
Paid up Capital Stock	405,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

Name	Position	Name	Position
Vladimir Ramirez	Chairman	Herminia Alduaza	Director
Silvana Magnaye	Director/President	Tebo Alduaza	Director
Celso Malgalig	Director/Vice President	Eduardo Bautista	Director
Elva Bautista	Director/Treasurer	Romeo Cantuba	Director
Ma. Rebecca Loza	Director/Secretary	Susan Malgalig	Director

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. 8556, the implementing Rules and Regulations and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.
August 20, 2003

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI – September 7 & 14, 2003)

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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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Day before publication

The Board of Trustees
of the Don Gregorio Agoncillo Foundation

Especially Remembers

DON GREGORIO REYES AGONCILLO

on his 127th Birthday and 40th Death Anniversary
Sept. 8, 1876 – Sept. 13, 1963

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches:

		Sept. 8	Sept. 13
1.)	San Martin de Tours Parish (Taal, Batangas)	6:00am	6:00am
2.)	Shrine of Our Lady of Caysasay (Taal, Batangas)	6:00am	6:00am
3.)	St. Vincent Ferrer (Tuy, Batangas)	7:15am	7:00am
4.)	St. Rafael Arcangel Parish (Calaca, Batangas)	5:30am	5:30am
5.)	Our Lady of Remedios Parish (Malate, Mla.)	7:00am	7:00am
6.)	Nuestra Senora de Guia Parish (Ermita, Mla.)	7:30am	7:30am
7.)	St. Anthony de Padua Parish (Singalong, Mla.)	6:00am	6:00am
8.)	San Fernando de Dilao Rectory (Paco, Manila)	6:30am	6:30am
9.)	Don Bosco Parish (Arnaiz Ave., Makati)	6:30am	6:30am
10.)	Mary the Queen Parish (Greenhills, San Juan)	7:00am	7:00am
11.)	San Agustin Chapel (Dasmarinas Vill., Makati)	6:45am	7:00am
12.)	Santuario de San Antonio (Forbes Park, Makati)	7:30 am	7:30am

We request the beneficiaries of the Scholarship Program of the Don Gregorio Agoncillo Foundation, relatives, friends, grandchildren and great grandchildren to remember him in their prayers.

We Lovingly Remember
The 3rd Death Anniversary of our Beloved

EMILIA S. BLAS

who joined her Creator on September 07, 2000

Holy Masses will be offered today, September 07, 2003 at the following churches:

National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary, *Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Mary Help of Christian Parish, *Maypajo, Caloocan City*	7:00 AM
Mount Carmel Shrine, *New Manila, Quezon City*	7:00 AM
Sacred Heart Parish, *Tugatog, Malabon, Metro Manila*	7:00 AM
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, *Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila*	7:15 AM
Our Lady of Grace Church, *M.H. del Pilar St., Caloocan City*	7:15 AM
San Bartolome Parish Church, *Rizal Avenue Ext., Malabon, Metro Manila*	7:15 AM
Most Holy Rosary Parish Church, *Rosario (Salinas), Cavite*	8:00 AM
St. John the Baptist Church, *Quiapo, Manila*	8:00 AM
Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, *Intramuros, Manila*	8:30 AM
Our Lady of Candelaria Church, *Silang, Cavite*	8:45 AM
Blessed Sacrament Church, *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	9:30 AM
Santisimo Rosario Parish, *P. Noval, Manila*	10:00 AM

Her family requests the pious readers, employees and friends to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

MESSAGE OF THANKS
From the family of the late

JULIANA BANTA LAZARO

for being with us in our time of grief...
for all the flowers, mass cards, undying prayers,
and masses for us...
and most especially for MAMA

Now, on her FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
for all the helping hands and support...
for all that you have done to console our hearts...
for your presence...

OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE

A 2 p.m. Mass will be offered today at the
Mt. Carmel Shrine and Crypt, New Manila, Quezon City

Our Dearly Beloved

DR. AQUILES "KELLY" TIONGSON ABELLAR

Peacefully joined our Creator
on September 5, 2003 at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Marita**; children **Tina**, **Allen** and **Raquel**, **Kathy**; grandchildren **Adrian**, **Anne**, **Aljon**; brother **Narding** and sister **Loring** and other relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, Poblacion No. 3, Gerona, Tarlac.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 10 at Pura Cemetery after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Gerona, Tarlac.

Engr. Edilberto Borja Santiago

of San Rafael, Bulacan and Skokie, Illinois

Joined our Heavenly God
on September 1, 2003 at the age of 76.

His is survived by his loving wife **Offie Santiago y Leuterio**; children **Ma. Teresita**, **Edilberto II** (**Mae Hilado**), **Francisco**, **Eduardo** (**Mañanita Villangca**), and **Edilberto III** (**Russelle Yrastorza**); grandchildren **Reynald Jay**, **Therese Mae**, and **Joshua Edward**; brothers **Reynaldo** (**Purita**) of Guam, USA, **Armando** (**Norma**); sisters **Fredisminda** of Manila, Philippines, and **Teresita** (**Carlos**) Centeno of Florida, USA.

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

AZUCENA "CHUCHI" ANGARA-SORIANO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 26, 2003.

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled and comforted us in bereavement.

IRENE PARAOAN vda. de AQUINO

of Batac, Ilocos Norte and Manila
June 6, 1918 - September 5, 2003

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him" *I Corinthians 2:9*

Her bereaved children, grandchildren and great grandchildren: Diana (†) - Edilberto Chan Sr., children and grandchildren; Lolita - Benny Quintos (†), children and grandchildren; Eugenio - Rosario Aquino and children, Benedicta - Mark Helstand, Constancia - Armando Ignacio, children and grandchild, Grecelia - Felino Jota and children, and extended family Jess Aquino Paraoan.

Sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.

She loved life

Dra. Teodorica Ramirez Dagdag

of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija
UST MD, 1939
Peacefully died and joined her Creator God at the age of 89.

Her husband, ***Simeon Sr.*** (†), children ***Sr. Teresa, MM, Carlito*** (†), ***Simeon Jr.*** (†) and ***Engr. Romulo R. Dagdag***, daughter-in-law ***Gloria Lisa***, grandchildren ***Ron Lyle, John Paul, Simeonette, Jane Doreen, Christine Marie***, siblings ***Francisco*** (†), ***Rosario*** (†), ***Lourdes Villarosa*** and ***Felicisima Carreon***, nieces, nephews and grandchildren request the readers and friends to remember her in prayer in thanksgiving for her life.

Her remains lie in state at the Dagdag residence, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija. Interment will be on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection at the St. Joseph Cathedral.

"I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Atty. Henry Amado B. Roxas

of San Miguel, Catanduanes and Sorsogon City
May 31, 1942 – Sept. 5, 2003

Peacefully joined his Creator on Sept. 5, 2003.

His beloved wife Mercy; children Deanna, Henry Jr., Arlene; daughter-in-law Katya; granddaughter Hanna; sisters & brother Zilda (†), Edgar, Grace, Ma. Rosario and Ma. Theresa; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at family residence in Our Lady's Village, Sorsogon City.

Interment will be on September 13, 2003 at the Sorsogon Memorial Garden at 2:00 p.m

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Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him.
I Corinthians 2:9

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Tels. 2812963 2813034 7810522
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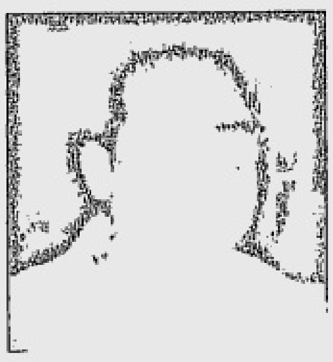
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform everybody that **MR. JOHNNY KHO** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with China Place Corp. since July 2003.

Any transaction entered into by him will not be honored by China Place Corp.

(PDI – September 7, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax 633-53-42
Direct Line 631-96-40
Trunk Line 632-13-61 locals 2007/22?

INVITATION TO REBID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all printers to apply for eligibility and to rebid for the printing and delivery of the following packages:

a. Package 1 - 200,000 copies International Growth Tables and Charts with a budget of P2,000,000.00
b. Package 2 - 1,700,000 sheets of Individual Health Cards with a budget of P2,250,000.00

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **September 1-12, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at *http://www.deped.gov.ph.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 12, 2003**, 10:00 A.M. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **September 26, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

PDI-- Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2003

SANYO DENKI PHILIPPINES, INC.

No. 2 Blk. F-1 Subic Techno Park Along Argonaut Hi-way
Boton Area Subic Bay Freeport Zone

is in need of

One (1) Quality Assurance Department Manager

with the following qualifications: Has at least 5 years extensive exposure/technical knowledge in the quality assurance for completed Fan Motors products, process control, evaluation of products, dealing with claim from customer for damage: Has hands on experience on these equipment: three dimentional measuring devise coarse surface measuring device: actual circle rate measuring device, special quality tester and multi-meter. Can read, speak and write NIHONGGO; at least 29-38 years old.

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with 2x2 recent photo and credentials to:

Labor and Employment Center Bldg.,
255 Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

ORNAMENTAL TREES AND PALMS FOR SALE!

VARIOUS SPECIES, WIDE CANOPY, IDEAL FOR LANDSCAPING ACCENTS AND GREENING REQUIREMENTS. 10-25 FEET IN HEIGHT, 2-6 INCHES IN CALIPER READY FOR BALL-OUT AND TRANSPLANTING.

LOCATION: Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio, Quezon

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885-3739 or 555-0002 loc. 3739 and (0917) 627-8288. Offers should be sent Mr. Tejada at Building A. Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI BAC) is inviting interested Branch Office(s) / Subsidiary (ies) in the Philippines, of Direct Manufacturers and/or Distributors of branded computers, duly organized under Philippines, to qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation of computer package for the following lots:

LOT NO.		Approved Budget for the Contract
1 - Luzon	PCs, Servers and peripherals for public high schools, LGUs and DTI Offices	P 263,974,614.00
2 - Visayas	PCs, Servers and peripherals for public high schools, LGUs and DTI Offices	P 128,394,089.00
3 - Mindanao	PCs, Servers and peripherals for public high school LGUs and DTI Offices	P 167,401 37.0

The project is funded by the Government of Japan nd Nc Project Grant Assistance.

Bid documents may be obtained from Maribeth Fullon/Dexter B Gianan, from September 3 to 15, 2003 during office hours after paying the non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) at the Office of Special Concerns (OSC), 5/F DTI Building, 361 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City, during regular office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 15, 2003 10:00 AM at the Conference Room, 6/F DTI Building 361 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The submission and opening of the Eligibility Requirements Technical and Financial proposals will be on September 22, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, 6/F DTI Bldg., 361 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The contract duration is for three (3) years and delivery period one hundred twenty (120) days.

The DTI BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the Government

For inquiries, please contact Dir. Dita M. Maralit / Lydia R. Guevarra through tel. nos. 890-5123 and 897-1718, Fax no. 890-4816 and E mail address DitaMaralit@dti.dti.gov.ph

By Authority of the Secretary of Trade and Industry.

(Sgd.) ARMIN B. RAQUEL-SANTOS
Assistant Secretary
Chair, DTI BAC

(PDI--Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2003)

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
uth on Operation & Maintenance

August 29, 2003

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

zon Operation & Maintenance invites interested
proposed project undertaking listed hereunder

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Budget of the Project to be bid	Source of Budget
			Php .012,721.07	ICG

of Furnishing of All Labor, Materials
for the Rehabilitation/Replacement o

lowing valid License and Registration
of Filipino and foreign contractors wil

License Particular	at least "Category B – Specialties
Registration Particular	at least "Medium A – Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution)

s shall be evaluate
in the bidding. All bids equal to c
ated based on the responsiveness c
to Postqualification before an award i
ontract to be Bid shall be rejected and

ting Sept. 01, 2003 up t
NTC Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No. 52
of Letter of Intent, original PCAB Licens

y Forms, documents and
be submitted at the office and
non-working day the deadline for
lowing said date. Late submission and/or

s without offering any reasons
proposal is most advantageous

ion should be addressed to the
ed on the latest amendments dated
PD 1594 & Executive Order 40).

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
Adm stration
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August 30 and Sept 7, 2003)

Trans Co
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

August 29, 2003

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation South Luzon Operation and Maintenance invites interested Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking listed hereunder. *(Application is also open to a joint venture of Filipino and foreign contractors with PCAB Special License for this project)*

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract/Source of Fund	License and Registration Particulars Issued by PCAB
Trans-03-ROHGWGK-06 Replacement of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Gumaca-Kalayaan 230kV Transmission Line 1 (Phase 1)	Quezon	76 working days	Php 3,954,954.17/ (ICB)	at least *"Category B, Specialties* at least *"Medium A, Electrical Works (Power Transmission and Distribution)"*

The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of Furnishing of All Labor Materials, Supplies, Tools, Equipment, Supervision and Other Incidentals necessary for the Replacement of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Gumaca-Kalayaan 230kV Transmission Line 1 (Phase 1).

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding; and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting September , 2003 up to September 22, 2003 at the Regional Contracts Management Office, NTC Biñan, Laguna Telefax No.: 520-6213 and E-mail Address: (rdramas@transco.ph) upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P800.00 per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms documents and statements shall be on or before 10:00 A.M. of September 22, 2003 and shall be submitted at the office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address. *(Note: This invitation was based on the latest amendments dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 of Implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 1594 & Executive Order 40)*

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration/
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

PDI-- Aug. 30 & Sept. 7, 2003

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  Pet Pantry pet foods are one of the finest products available in the world. Our customers see improvements in their pets' coat and overall vitality. Naturally, our ingredients are of the finest and freshest quality.
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  Through our bin system and efficient reordering process, all you do is call when low, place the bin out and we replenish your food
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

01-005/014/016/002/002/008/011-01/02/05/03/03/02/03

September 00

To All Qualified Bidders:

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all contractors classified by and registered with the Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractor at least Small "B" from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideli Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov 1997).

The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids fro eligible bidders for the following packages.

Package 1	Repair of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Classrooms SB in Maoay PS, Bangued, Abra Repair of One (1) Unit Three (3) Classrooms SB in Patucannay ES, Bangued, Abra Repair of Two (2) Units Three (3) Class oms SB Dolores CS, Dolores, Abra Repair of Two (2) Units Three (3) Classro SB Tagodtod ES, Lagangilang, Abra
Package 2	Repair of One (1) Unit – Five (5) Classrooms SB in Buc CS, Bucloc, Abra Repair of Two (2) Units Three (3) Classrooms SB in Luzong ES, Luba, Abra Repair of One (1) Unit Four (4) Cla or SB in Catacdegan ES, Manabo, Abra

Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of ABRA with address at Actividad Economia St., Bangued, Abra for a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (Php2,500.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education Division Office of ABRA Actividad Economia St Bangued, Abra on or before October 7, 2003 / 9:00 AM, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) ROSITA C. BRILLANTES
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

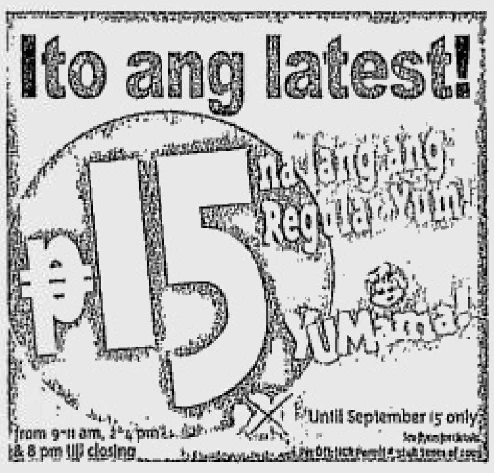
(PDI–Sept. 7, 2003)

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

SECRET PASSAGE. "Meteor Garden" stars Vanness (far left) and Ken reportedly will be smuggled out of the airport through a different exit to prevent other TV people from interviewing or taking pictures of them.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Other networks banned from F4

By Marinel R. Cruz

THERE might not be a "Meteor" shower on local television.

INQUIRER Entertainment learned that other TV networks are banned from covering the arrival of the stars of "Meteor Garden," ABS-CBN's phenomenally popular chinovela, as the network makes sure it does an exclusive coverage of their Manila visit.

Vanness Wu (Mei Zhuo) and Ken Zhu (Xi Men), members of the former pop quartet F4, or Flower 4, and Barbie Xu (San Cai) are scheduled to arrive on board two China Airlines flights from Taiwan on Sept. 11.

Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, confirmed that the network has the exclusive right to the coverage of the arrival of the Taiwanese stars.

"Its true that we are not allowing any other network to cover the arrival," Manalastas told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday. "We are still discussing this with airport officials."

Vanness, Ken and Barbie, who will be with her sister Dee Xu, reportedly will be given a welcome fit for dignitaries, including use of the presidential lounge at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Centennial Terminal.

Only the President and other top officials of the land are allowed to use Naia's presidential lounge. Even Hollywood stars Lou Diamond Philips and Tia Carrere, who recently flew in to attend the 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival, did not get to use the lounge.

The Taiwanese stars are coming to Manila to perform in a one-night show called "The Event" on Sept. 13 at the Philsports (Ultra) Football Field in Pasig City.

On Sept. 21, ABS-CBN will air not the concert itself but a two-hour special featuring the "Meteor Garden" stars. Kris Aquino will host the program.

Naia General Manager Edgar Manda told INQUIRER Entertainment that the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (Teco) has requested him in writing for a "security cover" for the Taiwanese stars.

Manda, however, refused to give details of the security measures that airport personnel would implement for the arrival of the Taiwanese stars.

"(Teco officials) feel that, with F4's popularity among Filipinos, the crowds might get unruly during the arrival," said Manda. "They simply want to be sure of the group's safety. We will see what we can do about their request. We also don't want to compromise our own security measures."

The Taiwanese celebrities reportedly will be using a different exit so that no other network, aside from ABS-CBN, could have access to them at the airport.

It is also said that reporters and production crew members from stations other than ABS-CBN would not be granted entry passes for the arrival.

"Meteor Garden" is shown weekdays on ABS-CBN. It also stars Jerry Yan as Dao Ming Shi, and Vic Zhuo as Hua Ze Lei.

Ken, 24, was born in Taiwan but raised in Singapore. He was a captain waiter in a Japanese restaurant before the show's producers discovered him.

Vanness, 24, was born in the US. He came to Taiwan to join a talent contest when the "Meteor Garden" producers asked him to audition.

Barbie is also popular in Taiwan as a singer and TV host. She is Big S in ASOS, a singing duo, with her sister, who is known as Small S.

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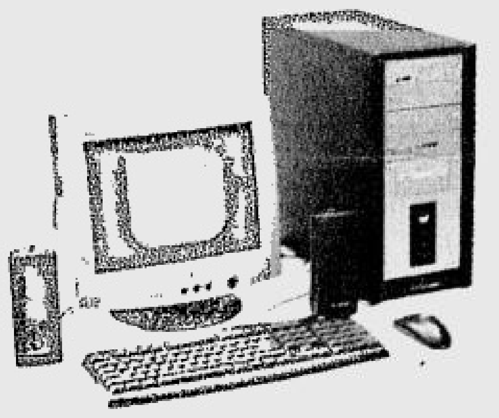

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When 'Idiot Box' is a name deserved

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

ALL right, "Idiot Box" may be too sweeping, and much too unfair to the gorgeous Animal Planet and the intelligent BBC.

But now and then—or oftener now—television does ask for it. For how else to call such a powerhouse institution that cavalierly, rashly, idiotically does not spare even the dead and the dying?

Erwin Tulfo once

Lodged in my subconscious somewhere is a months-old news flash about the death of a security guard whose name remains trapped in my head but about whom one detail emerges: The man had holes in his socks.

The security guard, said the morning news, was just coming off work when he caught the commotion in a passenger jeepney that had come to a crawl near the building where he worked. Indeed, the passengers there were being held up. In a flash, the security guard ran to the rescue, shooting it out with the gang. In a few minutes, he was dead.

And the one detail that never left me was that, as he lay there dead, he had holes in his socks.

One would think that any news reader with the gumption to add his two-cents worth to the news would actually have wit, or sensibility, or insight, or empathy, or any thing at all that enriches the human race. But no, those things don't bother Erwin Tulfo.

The guy notices neither the guard's reckless bravery or selfless guts. Misses out completely on the absolute bigness of that guard who could've lived another day if he'd just cowered in his building. And ignores totally one ordinary guy performing one extraordinary deed.

No, Erwin Tulfo has to say: "*Kaya kayo diyan, huwag kayong mag*-ala Sonny Parsons. *Hindi ito pelikula!*"

Or, something worse. My memory can only hold so much garbage.

Erwin Tulfo twice

Even more recently, the same Erwin Tulfo was reading the news about a farmer-husband who hacked to death a man he caught in the *batis* with his wife, at the end of which the dead man's family drew blood by attacking the husband's father, leaving two dead bodies within the day and a young wife protesting her innocence.

As the dead body of the father lay on a cart on a dirt road and the husband's body was reported as having lost an arm and other body parts, one had to be overwhelmed. The men who died—maybe they were good people pushed to the edge by love and family honor? Maybe the woman was innocent, making all that dying unnecessary? Or if she was guilty, what was the history of her betrayal? So many questions, no less and no more than the stuff of Shakespearian tragedy.

But, no, trust Erwin Tulfo to miss Shakespeare. Instead, he says in his staccato, this-is-the-way-a-man-talks manner: "*E bakit pa kasi sa batis, napakaluma naman niyan? 'Di na lang sa ilalim ng puno ng mangga?*"

Or, something worse than that. Again, my memory can only hold so much aggravation.

Korina Sanchez redux

As TV Patrol's main anchor, Korina takes serious responsibility for the top-rating show. Unless, of course, she admits that anchors are merely talking heads, hired for their looks and staying for years whatever the sorry state of their minds. In which case, all talk about her running for government office should cease immediately.

Assuming, however, that Korina is more than just a face, then she really must worry about her taste, at the very least. She has got some teenagers saying: "Whatever happens, don't believe the media. They're saying the wrong things."

In the early morning of May 22, their 17-year-old batch mate jumped to her death from the Platinum 2000, landing on the grounds of Camp Crame. They knew the TV cameras came. What they didn't know was that TV Patrol would that night make them gnash and cry.

The dead girl—whose name we leave unmentioned in deference to her family—was lying face up, only slightly tilted to the side. On GMA-7, her stomach was covered by a pillow and the report simply said this was an apparent suicide. On Channel 2, her stomach did not just show. It showed full and long because the camera stayed with the girl as hands flipped her for a fuller view, and then pulled up her shirt long enough for the field reporter, a male, to suggest these: The girl was a mental case and the girl was pregnant.

Her friends were devastated.

Their friend was not pregnant, they protested. She had not even had a boyfriend in more than a year! Neither was she a mental case. On the contrary, on her last year at Reedley International School, the tall and pretty girl was student council vice president and class valedictorian no less! More than that, she was cheerful, and while she did not like talking about herself, she liked having people tell her about themselves.

SANCHEZ

TULFO PHOTOS COURTESY OF YES! MAGAZINE

Yet TV Patrol made the whole country think their friend was crazy or loose of morals or both. Not only that, TV Patrol sounded so sure about everything about her death. How could that be, they gritted, when even they, her good friends for years, were still asking, for heaven's sake, why?

Was it because her Singaporean father and Filipino mother were separated? Or because her mother was to marry someone else in a week's time? Was hers an intellectual flirtation with death? On her website she wrote that she wanted to die, but not before and only after she'd seen "Star Wars" and "Lord of the Rings." What did it mean that five months before, she gave to a school adviser the book "Veronica Decides to Die," highlighting the passage on suicide? And that just the day before she died, she answered a friend who'd asked where she was going for college: "I don't know. To Ateneo. To La Salle. Or maybe to death." My god, they said, they still didn't even know for sure if it was the 22nd floor she jumped from or the 24th?

To this day, there are many things her friends don't know. All they know, they said, is "You can't believe the media."

Send feedback to joann.maglipon@summitmedia.com.ph

Mystery surrounding Nefertiti's fate unraveled

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THOUSANDS of years separate Queen Nefertiti of Egypt and modern-day Egyptologist Dr. **Joanne Fletcher**, but these two women are linked by a unique bond that transcends all those centuries of sullen time.

"Nefertiti Revealed" on the Discovery Channel at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7, shows how Dr. Fletcher, a member of York University's Mummy Research Team, zeroes in on the heretofore unknown resting place of one of ancient Egypt's most famous and yet most mysterious luminaries, and cracks one of history's most baffling cases of missing identity.

Long overlooked in a sealed side chamber of a royal tomb deep in Egypt's Valley of the Kings lies a heretofore unheralded mummy. Fletcher believes this mummy, temporarily named "Lady X," might be Nefertiti.

Why? An expert in ancient Egyptian hair, Fletcher had earlier discovered in the Cairo Museum a forgotten Nubian-style wig of a type worn only by Nefertiti and members of her family. The wig had been found near three unidentified mummies, so Fletcher made it her mission to track them down.

On her first trip in June 2002, she was heartened when archaeological chemists placed the mummies within Nefertiti's time after studying the embalming techniques used. Other physical links to the late queen were found, including a double-pierced ear lobe and shaved head.

When she returned to the royal tomb last June 2003, Fletcher found a detached arm positioned as if holding a royal scepter, as well as gold "Nefer" beads embedded in the mummy's chest.

Is Lady X Nefertiti? The Discovery Channel's documentary fully intends to find out.

The program also unravels the mystery surrounding the fall of Nefertiti and her powerful husband, the pharaoh Akhenaten.

Its educated guess is that Akhenaten founded an early form of monotheism to worship the sun god Aten, building a new desert capital at Amarna. This provoked the powerful, entrenched priesthood. As Akhenaten became an obsessed zealot, Egypt approached civil war.

(After Akhenaten's death, the outraged priests restored polytheism, and savagely destroyed the images of Akhenaten and Nefertiti, striking their names from the historical record, thus creating the mystery surrounding their deaths up to this day.)

How informed is the program's analysis of Nefertiti's life and times? On another TV show, we learned that some Egyptian officials have disputed this interpretation of events. But a number of Egyptologists continue to hold that Dr. Fletcher's views are more fact than fiction. All the more reason then for us to watch "Nefertiti Revealed" this Sunday, to figure things out for ourselves.

Richard at Calesa Bar

SINGER-comedian **Richard Villanueva** will be performing at the Calesa Music Bar and Lounge of Hyatt Regency Manila on Monday, Sept. 8. A Fe S. Panlilio Art Foundation scholar, Richard says his performance style is interactive, and he encourages audience participation.

He describes himself as an "accidental" comedian, because he didn't know he could be funny until he discovered his gift when when he became a host at the Music Box sing-along bar.

His Calesa Bar repertoire will include songs identified with **Frank Sinatra, Josh Groban** and **Martin Nievera**, plus pop hits done the "classical" way.

'Rudy Giuliani Story'

NEW York City's former mayor, **Rudy Giuliani**, is the subject of the film bio, "The Rudy Giuliani Story," which will premiere on the Cinemax channel at 9 tonight.

The film stars **James Woods** as Giuliani. It dramatizes the events of 9/11 and the life of the beleaguered leader whose courage helped his city cope with its grief and rebuild itself.

Despite all his crises, Giuliani's life story demonstrates the resiliency of the human spirit, and man's ability to overcome daunting challenges and setbacks.

Starsvenue entertainers

STARSVENUE on Pasay Road features these entertainers this month: Mondays, **Albert de Pano**. Tuesdays, Dual Sound. Wednesdays, Style. Thursdays, **Kiko Verzosa**. Fridays, Dream Sequence and Christo. Saturdays, Package Deal.

'Endless love'

LAST Wednesday, Sept. 3, GMA-7's new Korean soap, "Endless Love," started telecasting, featuring young dramatic talents destined for major stardom.

The story revolves around one of Korea's most beautiful women, **Eun Suh**. Switched at birth, Eun Suh is unaware of her real parentage until an accident leads to its discovery.

Her adoptive parents' real daughter turns out to be **Shin Ae**, Eun Suh's fiercest rival in school. Eun Suh is forced to leave the mansion she once lived in, and works hard to support herself.

Much later, her adoptive parents' son, **Yoon Jun Suh**, comes home from the States and falls deeply in love with Eun Suh. Trouble is, she now has a boyfriend, who happens to be his best friend. Decisions, decisions!

'Legally Blonde 2'

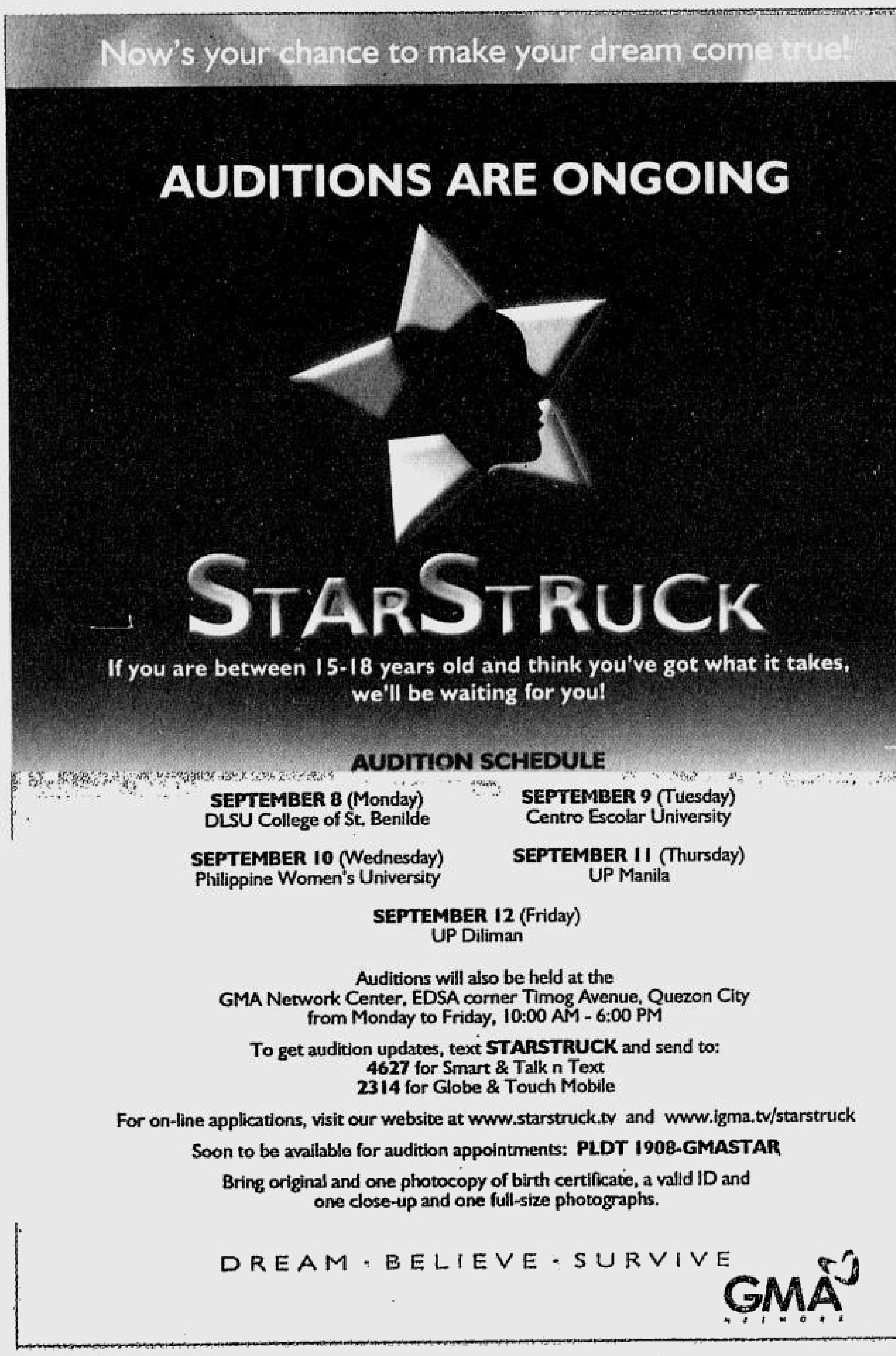
DOG lovers have been spreading the word: Watch "Legally Blonde 2" while it's playing in town, because it gives a special boost to man's best friend, to wit:

Elle Woods, Reese's character, has graduated from Harvard with a law degree and moved to Washington to start practising law. However, instead of lawyering for fat-cat clients, she decides to fight for animal rights.

She comes to this decision after learning that her per Chihuahua Bruiser's mother is in a cosmetics laboratory, where make-up tests are being conducted on her and other lab dogs.

Outraged, Elle proposes a bill that would make cosmetics tests on animals illegal. She even postpones her wedding plans to concentrate on her new mission.

Way to go, Elle! Of course, "Legally Blonde 2" has other treats that viewers can appreciate, even if they aren't pooch fanatics!



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Depp: I love America

LOS ANGELES—Denying any anti-American sentiment on his part, actor Johnny Depp said on Thursday that quotes attributed to him as likening the US to a "dumb puppy" were inaccurate and taken out of context.

"I am an American," Depp said in a statement. "I love my country and have great hopes for it. It is for this reason that I speak candidly and sometimes critically about it. I have benefited greatly from the freedom that exists in my country and for this I am eternally grateful."

Depp, starring in the swashbuckling "Pirates of the Caribbean," issued the statement a day after the German news magazine Stern published an interview in which he ridiculed Washington's confrontation with France, where he lives, over the US war in Iraq.

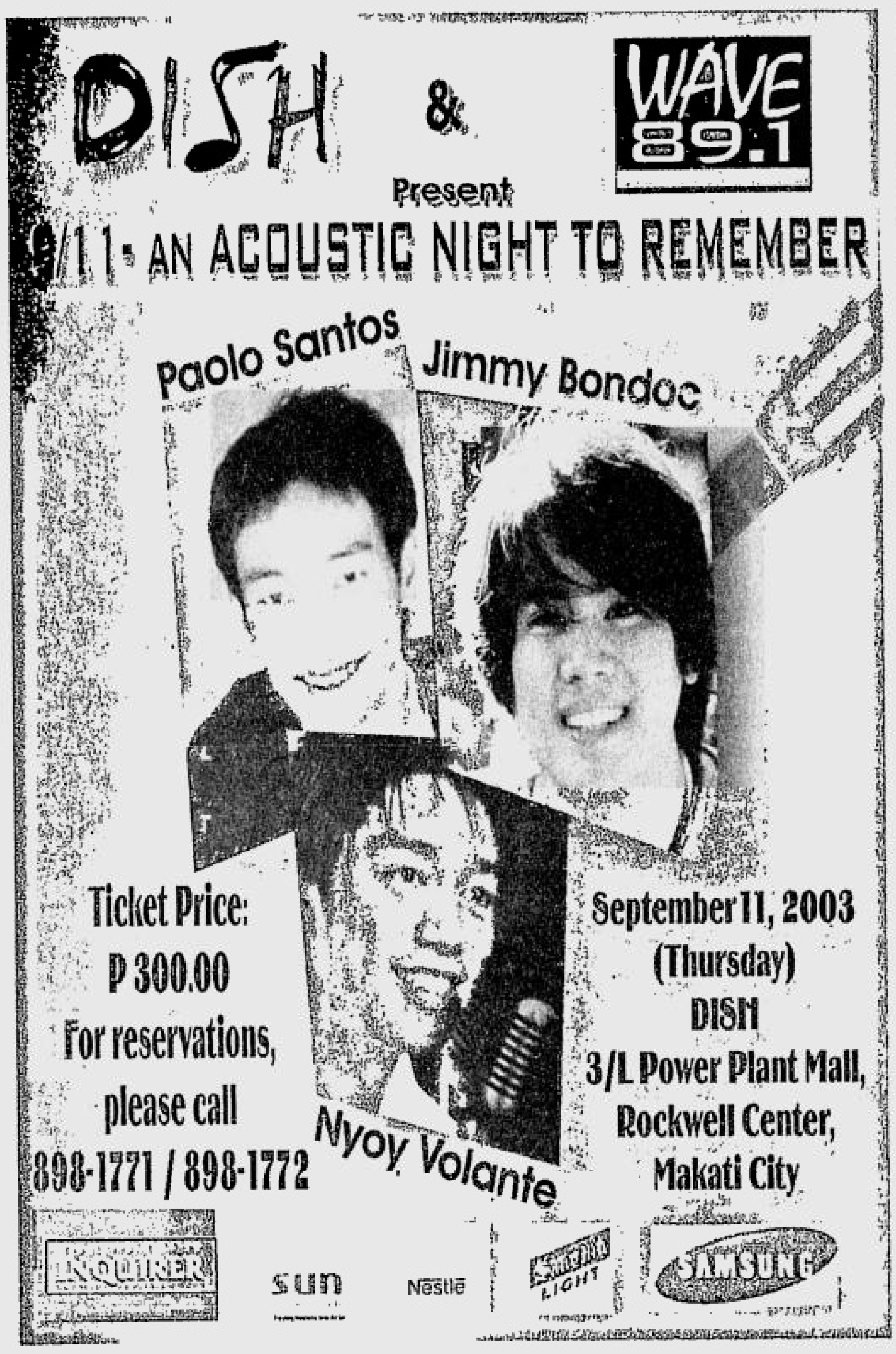
The magazine quoted the actor as saying "America is ... like a dumb puppy that has big teeth that can bite and hurt you, aggressive." He was further quoted as saying he wanted his children to "see America as ... a broken toy" that they should explore, get the feel of, then "get out."

A day later, Depp said he was using a metaphor that was taken "radically out of context." "My deepest apologies to those who were offended, affected, or hurt by this insanely twisted deformation of my words and intent," he said. The Kentucky-born Depp, 40, lives in the south of France with his family. His wife, actress-singer Vanessa Paradis, is French.

Reuters

DID YOU KNOW...

Actor **Mark Gil** was seen checking out precious pieces at Fine Jewelry at Shoppesville Arcade in Greenhills, San Juan on a recent rainy Wednesday afternoon. The actor was not with his current girl, who is not from show business. Mark is the father of young actor **Gabby Eigenmann**, one of the late additions to the famous acting family of **Eddie Mesa** and **Rosemarie Gil**.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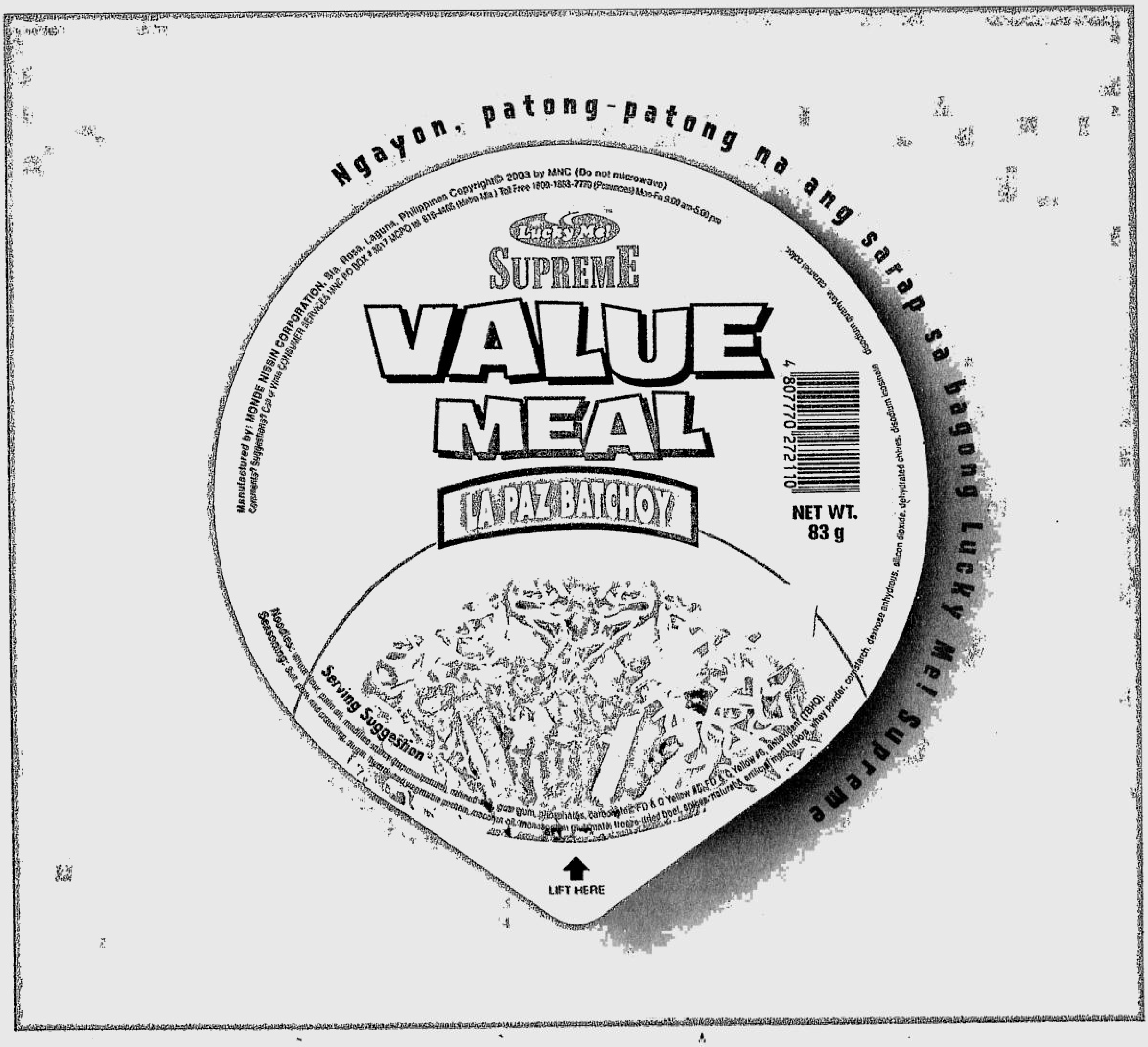
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Martin Nievera after Las Vegas

NIEVERA Onstage, and then the US

THE FIRST half of 2003 has been astounding, to put it mildly, for Martin Nievera.

He continues to reign as concert king, after eight sold-out performances at the Araneta Coliseum. In February, he performed with his ex-wife, concert queen Pops Fernandez, in a reunion concert that broke records, also at the Araneta Coliseum.

Martin and Regine Velasquez achieved the same feat in their homecoming show. On opening night, President Macapagal-Arroyo was in the audience .

But the biggest achievement of Martin thus far was his month-long concert series at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas, the live entertainment capital of the world. Martin, who is celebrating his 21st year in show business, was on the cover of Showbiz Weekly, the biggest entertainment magazine in Las Vegas. Billboards along the Strip, the most famous street in downtown Las Vegas, announced the Martin Nievera series at the Golden Nugget.

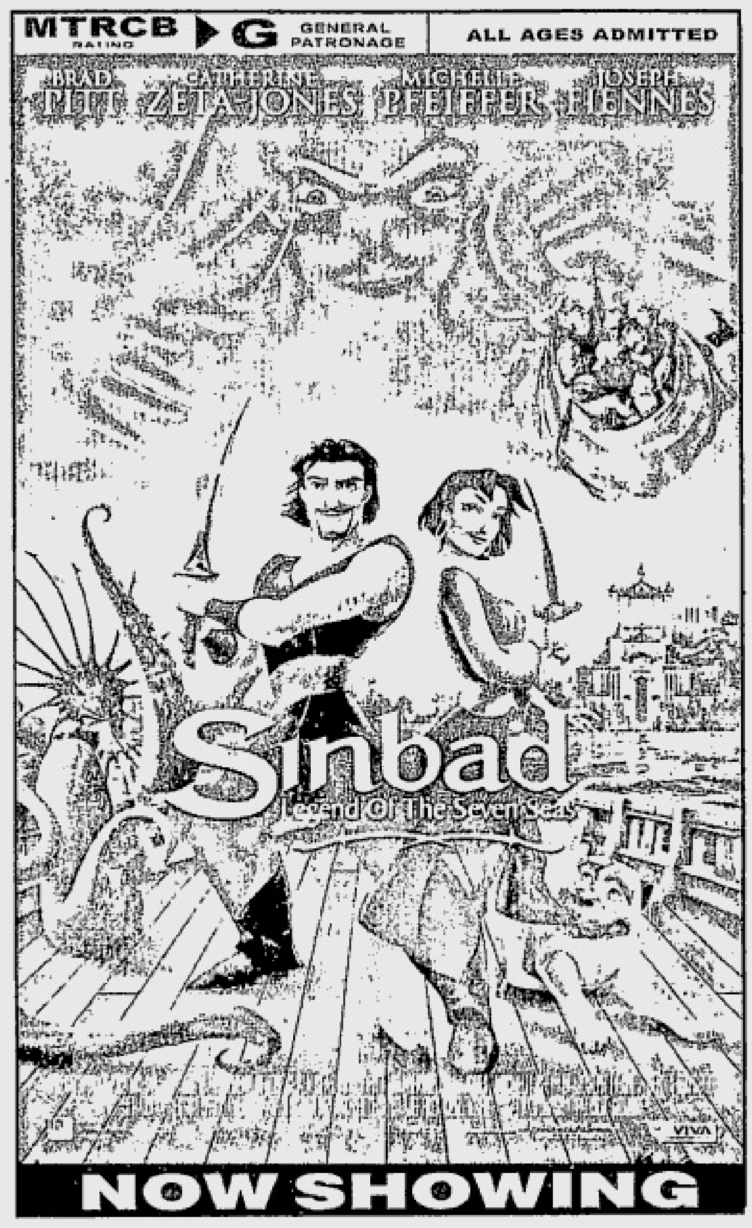
Martin conquers Onstage for the third straight year. So far, he holds the record for having the longest running solo concert series in local entertainment history, and it happened at the same venue, Onstage in the heart of Makati, the country's financial and commercial district.

For this new series, Martin promises new concepts and more laughter.

Immediately after his last Onstage show this month, Martin will leave for a two-month US concert tour with Pops.

"Martin Nievera: Onstage Again" happens on Sept. 12-13, 19-20 and 26-27 at Onstage, 2nd floor, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati. The show, a production of Maxi-Media International in association with Big Mouth International Inc., is presented by Marie France Body Line International, Facial Care Center, Calcium Plus, Nestlé Lemonade, Coffeemate and Smart, in cooperation with Advil, Beam Toothpaste and Farlin Disposable Baby Diapers.

Tickets at P800, P1,000 and P1,350 (plus 3-percent ticketron charge) are available at all Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore branches and Robinsons malls, 896-5610; Tower Records in Makati and Alabang, Onstage Ticketron, and Maxi-Media, 551-8999 and 551-7777.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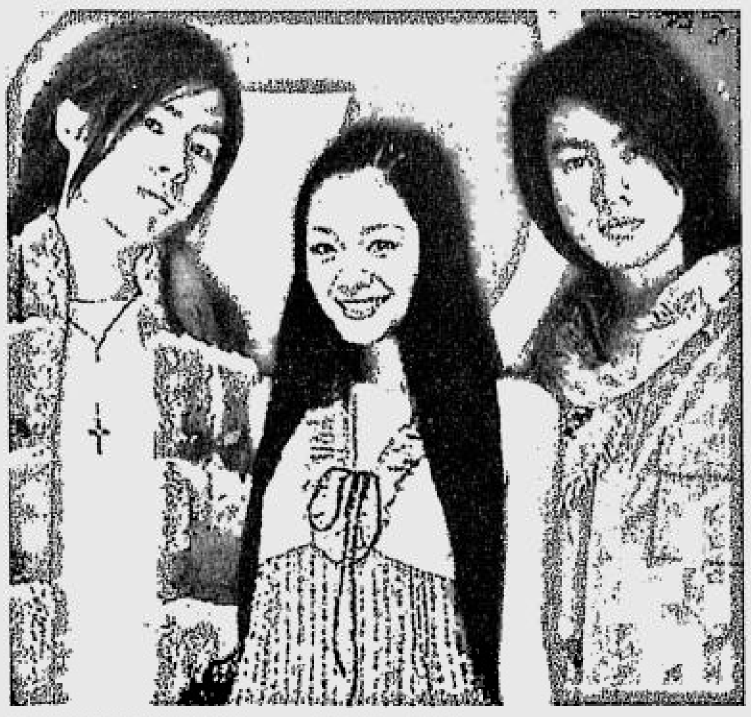
3 FOR THE SHOW: Vanness, Barbie and Ken

Text your way to 'The Event'

SHOW TIME

CAN'T get enough of Vaness, Barbie Xiu and Ken of Meteor Garden? Globe gives you the chance to watch them in "The Event" concert.

Gentext gives you access to the biggest event in chinovela history. Simply send the keyword EVENT to 2277.

Four lucky Gentxters will get to meet Barbie Xiu (Shan Cai of Meteor Garden) in person during the "Meet and Greet" session before the concert.

To top it off, the winners also get to watch the show from VIP seats worth P10,000 each.

You can also test the power of your Gentxt card when you flash it at the Ultra on the concert date. Each of the first 300 Gentxters to register at the venue at 3 p.m. gets free access for one to the P1,000 area of "The Event."

And if you're not a Gentxter yet, now is the time to be one. Just send JOIN to 2277.

You can also increase your chances to attend the much-awaited concert by sending F4 to 2949 to download F4 news, lyrics and ring tones. Just go through the one-time registration process via text, download the F4 category of your choice and earn raffle entries.

You'll definitely enjoy your downloads more when you get to be picked as one of the four lucky winners who get to meet Barbie Xiu as well as win a pair of P3,000 tickets.

In addition, 35 subscribers will win two P1,000 tickets each.

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Chavit bio-pic . . .

From page C5

paras said he realized that Chavit was a "rare breed, a never-say-die kind of person." In 2001, Chavit was instrumental in the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada. Chavit's "Juentengate" confessions led to another show of people power that was "Edsa Dos."

"He'll fight his adversaries tooth and nail," Caparas said of the Ilocos politician. "Some people say the Chavit-Erap feud pales in comparison to what Chavit suffered during the Marcos regime. Chavit is a veteran of big political encounters, whether physical, psychological or legal. He is a real gladiator in the political arena."

Caparas said the movie will include the six assassination attempts on Chavit's life and his survival in a plane crash.

"Chavit: Bloodson of Ilocos" also stars Dina Bonnevie as Chavit's wife Evelyn Singson, Joel Torre and Danita Paner. Chavit's close friend, Clavel Vendaña, is a co-producer.

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"GREAT ENTERTAINMENT AIMED RIGHT AT THE KID IN EVERY ONE OF US!"
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PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN
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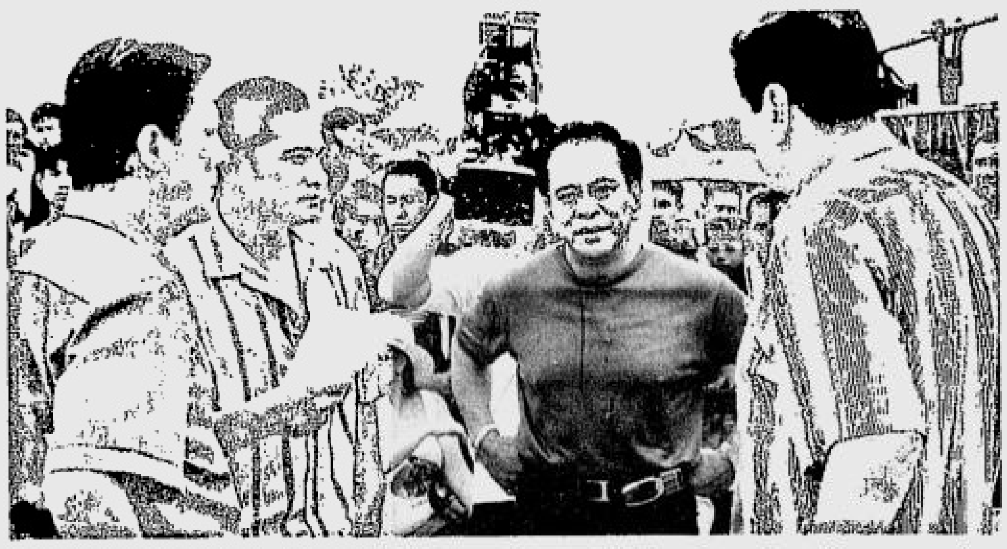
pirates.movies.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING PG-13
SEE DEAD PEOPLE . . . SEPT. 24!
Some ghost will scare you to death!
INNER SENSES
異度空間
STARRING LESLIE CHEUNG KARENA LAM
DIRECTED BY LO CHI- LEUNG
Solar FILMS INC. RELEASE



THE REAL Singson (in blue) gives tips to actors ((from left) Tirso Cruz, Cesar Montano and Eddie Garcia.

Chavit bio-pic now costs ₱60M

By Leah Salterio
Contributor

THE MOVIE on the life of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, initially planned to be a P50-million project, has so far cost P60 million.

The Chavit movie is produced by Golden Lion Films and Velcro Films.

Producer Donna Villa of Golden Lion explained that the project has gone beyond the original budget since it is a period flick set in the '60s with scenes that need hundreds of extras.

Villa and her husband, Carlo J. Caparas, who is directing the film-bio, used old props like vintage cars and costumes to recreate the "roaring" '60s in Ilocos Sur, which Time magazine had called "warlords country" during that era. The magazine cover had Chavit's arch-rivals, the father and son political tandem of Floro and Bingbong Crisologo, with their men about to gang up on Chavit. Chavit had stood his ground and fought it out with the Crisologo men.

The Ilocos Sur political battle in the '60s will be depicted in the Caparas movie, "Chavit: Bloodson of Ilocos," with award-winning actor Cesar Montano in the title role. Eddie Garcia and Tirso Cruz III play Floro and Bingbong Crisologo.

Chavit recalled that if he had not battled his political enemies during the Marcos years, he would not have lived to this day to tell the tale. In the end, Marcos befriended Chavit to gain his support.

"*Kung hindi ako nakipaglaban noon, baka patay na ako ngayon,*" Chavit said. "*Kung hindi ko tinibayan and sarili ko, baka wala nang* Chavit *sa panahong ito*. For me, dying is unforgivable if you are fighting for a cause."

He said the movie would show to Ilocos Sur residents today the early days of the province when a few people monopolized local politics, properties and businesses.

Chavit decided to bury the hatchet and make peace with the Crisologos. He even interceded for the release from jail of Bingbong in 1980, upon the prodding of the Marcoses.

Caparas got interested in the life of Chavit Singson as early as 1985. Early this year, Caparas again signified his intention to make a movie of Chavit's life story. With the help of former actress Daisy Romualdez, the project materialized.

In the course of writing the screenplay, Ca-

CHAVIT/ C4

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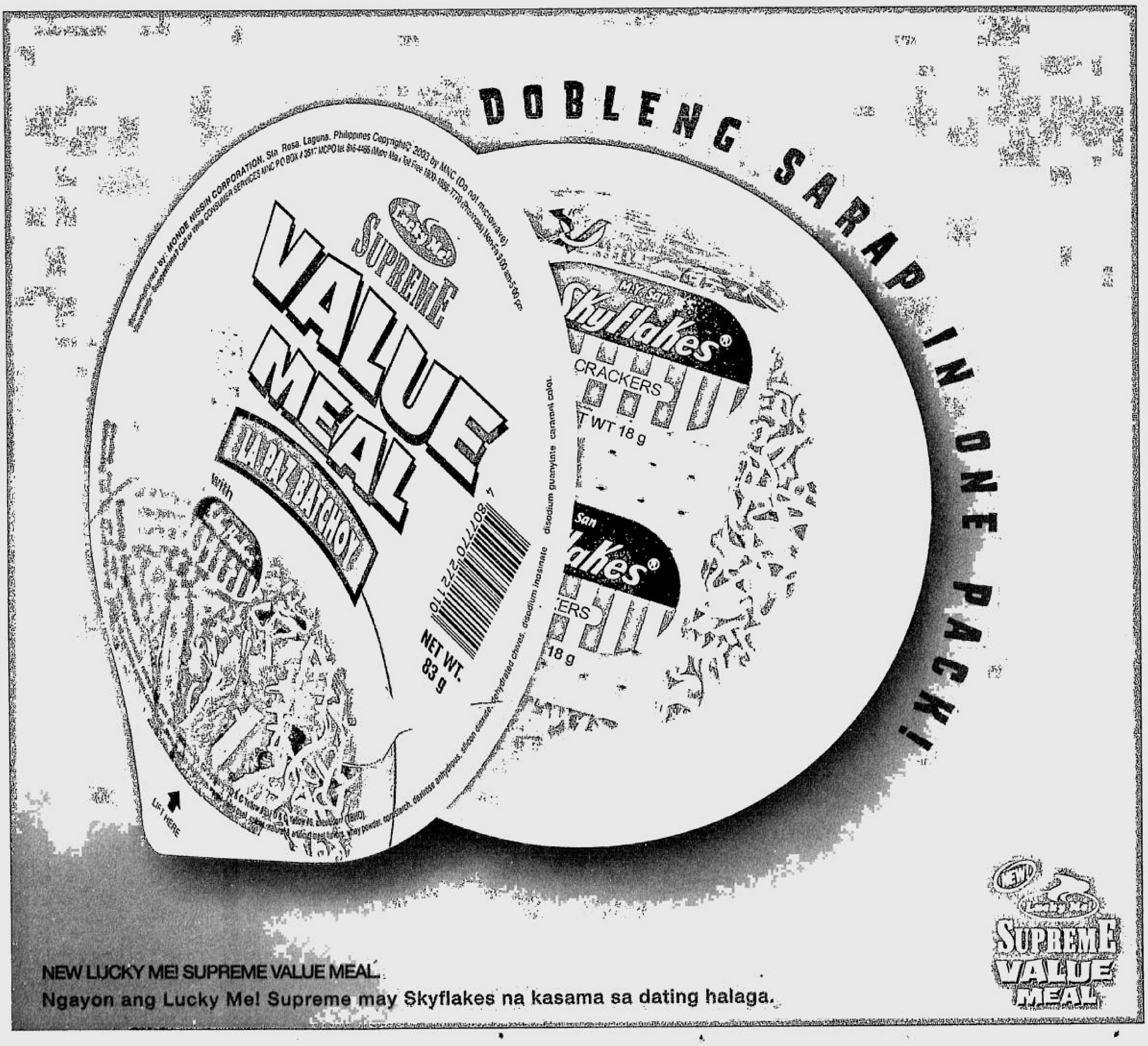

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'Gorgeous Clooney' heats up Venice film festival

SHOW STOPPER

VENICE, Italy—Hollywood celebrities George Clooney and Catherine Zeta-Jones whipped up a frenzy in Venice on Wednesday as the Coen brothers' new screwball romantic comedy "Intolerable Cruelty" premiered at the film festival.

Girls screamed and paparazzi jostled for position as the stars pulled up in an elegant wooden boat to promote the new film about a Beverly Hills battle of the sexes. Zeta-Jones dazzled in a fluttery, ultra-feminine black dress, but Clooney was the main attraction.

"Georgeous Clooney!" the headline of one film magazine said, while a comedienne interrupted a press conference to ask for the 42-year-old actor's hand in marriage.

Joel and Ethan Coen rushed their latest picture to the 60th Venice Film Festival, where it is being screened as a "work in progress", since a couple of extra shots will be added to the film before its commercial release. Clooney portrays Miles Massey, a successful Los Angeles divorce attorney who finally meets his match in professional husband hunter Marylin, played by Zeta-Jones. As the two battle it out in the divorce courts they find they cannot help being attracted to each other.

Zeta-Jones, who won an Oscar for her recent performance in the gangster musical "Chicago," in real life is married to actor Michael Douglas.

Geoffrey Rush and Billy Bob Thornton also make hilarious appearances in the film that kept critics howling at a preview screening on Tuesday night.

"Intolerable Cruelty" is showing out of competition at the world's oldest film festival.

Reuters

LAST SUPPER scene from the Canadian-British production

New Jesus movie less controversial than Mel's

TORONTO—Mel Gibson take note: There's another new film about the life of Jesus that also depicts Jews' involvement in the events leading to the Crucifixion. But this one has several Jewish producers and has attracted much less controversy.

While Gibson's "The Passion" won't be released for months, Jewish and Christian commentators already are debating whether its gory treatment of Jesus' death will rouse antiSemitism. By contrast, there's no advance acrimony surrounding "The Gospel of John," which premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival on a symbolically chosen Sept. 11.

"John" is a Canadian-British production made for $15 million. Their next word-for-word biblical flick is "The Gospel of Mark." *AP*

Vandals spray-paint Harry Potter trains

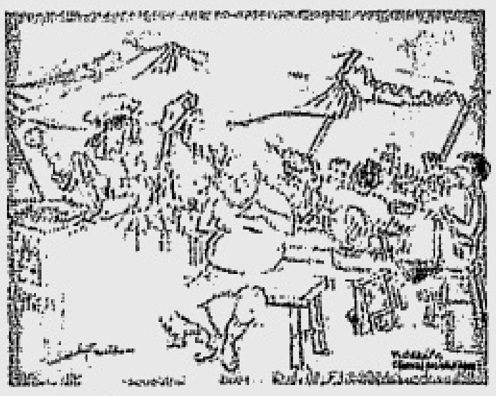
LONDON—Graffiti artists have vandalized two of the railway carriages used in the Harry Potter films, causing up to 3,000 pounds (US$4,700) damage, police said Thursday.

The carriages were pulled by the Hogwart's Express in two films, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" and "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," but are now covered with green and silver spray-painted "tags."

"It is just mindless vandalism," said James Shuttleworth, chief operations officer for West Coast Railway Company which owns the train. "I don't think they were targeting Harry Potter."

The carriages were in their shed in Scarborough, northeastern England, but the steam locomotive that pulls them in the film was safe in a different depot. They are due to appear in the third Harry Potter film currently in production.

AP



BY Vic Vargas

Stars for...

From page C7

patrons may buy their work because they are celebrities and not for the merit of their work.

Pascual sees it differently, however. "It's a plus, don't you think," she says with a smile. "They get the work, the autograph and even a photo with the artist."

The greenhorn of the group is Montenegro, who picked up the easel only in June. "I was watching Baron Geisler's sister paint and asked if I could try it," she recalls with a laugh. "She said no. So I bought my own materials. I've been painting non-stop since." To date, she has already finished an impressive 22 pieces. "I found a way to kill time and something that I like to do," she says. "It relieves stress."

Montenegro says she's still in awe with her newfound passion. "My son draws and I used to not know where he got his talent," she says. "Now I found a way to sit down for three hours and be happy."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

Salamat mga Kapuso,
sa inyong pagtitiwala!

1

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Prime Time

Nielsen Media Research

Market : Metro Manila
Survey Date : July 2003
Daypart : Mon-Fri 5am- 8am

all AM
dzbb 2.5%
dzmm 2.4%

Radio Hours

Nielsen Media Research

Market : Metro Manila
Survey Date : July 2003
Daypart : Mon-Fri 5am-6pm

all AM
dzbb 1.1%
dzmm 1.1%

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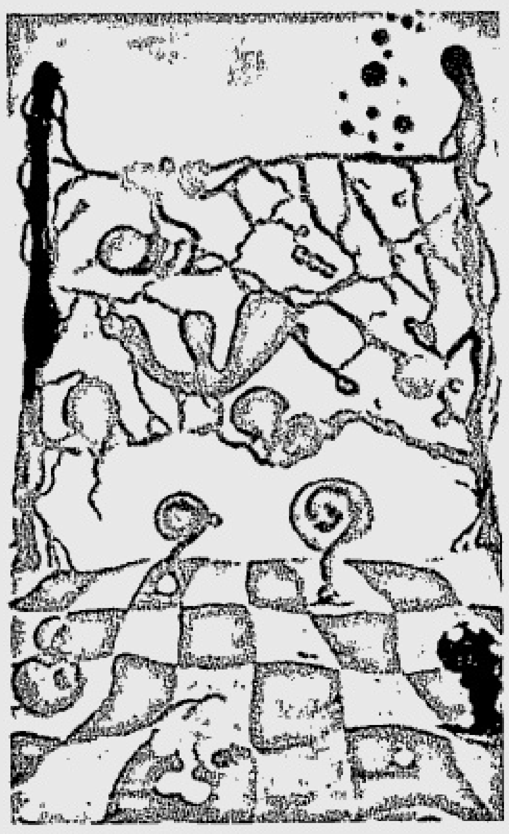
Stars for the sake of art



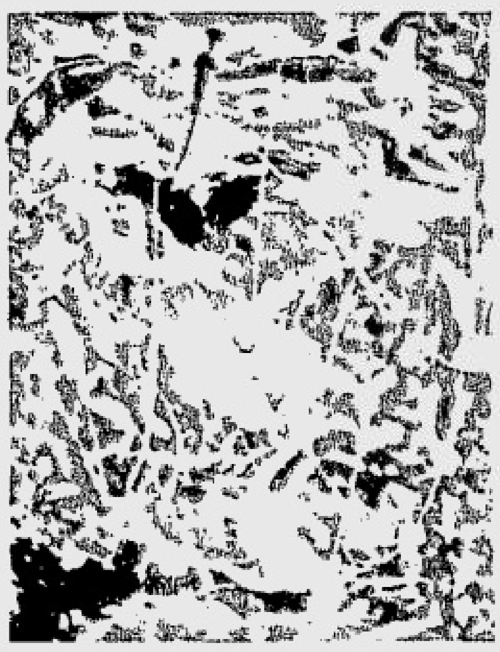
BY RACHEL Lobangco

By Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

"DIG deeper," says one of them. "There are more aspects to the artist in actors. [You only have to] dig deeper… "

Hence, art lovers and movie fans alike can burrow into a gold mine as the Film Artists Group, headed by beauty queen and '80s bold star Ma. Isabel Lopez, holds the "Artists as Artists" art exhibit until next month. The month-long exhibit is co-presented by the Ayala Museum and host-venue Food & Art Galerie (12/F GT Tower, corner Ayala Avenue HV de la Costa Street, Makati City), which is celebrating its first anniversary. The actor-painters show three to five works each; some are for sale while others are on loan from private collections.

Lopez, who staged the first "Artist as Artists" show in 2001, says she formed the artists' group initially to generate jobs for other actors-painters. "There was a slump in show business," she recalls. "With the popularity of *telenovelas*, there weren't many jobs for actors. I thought of bringing these artists together to open new doors and a secondary career for them."



PASCUAL, one of her works (left)

NOT SHALLOW, actors are "very sensitive and creative," says Lopez.

Lopez has thriving businesses and is not in need of a different source of livelihood herself. Married to a Japanese photojournalist and professional surfer, she has not been visible in show biz circles for sometime; she is busy raising a family and managing a surfing school, rent-a-car, money-delivery, among other business ventures.

But the UP fine arts graduate was also aiming to disprove the notion that "because we are actors, we are shallow. There's another side to the artist in us. Actors are very sensitive and creative."

Echoing Lopez's sentiment, actress-radio host Evangeline Pascual says because "of people's concept of me as a beauty queen, (they think) I cannot come up with the kind of work (that I do)."

The 1972 Miss World first runner-up has been painting since the '70s, favoring oil as a medium because "it conforms to my strokes." Pascual describes her style as abstract expressionist, and admits to her tendency to get deeply attached to her works.

"There are emotions involved (in the painting process) so it's hard to part with them," she says. She doesn't sell her works, preferring the satisfaction she gets from seeing them hung on her walls.

She is among the new additions to Lopez's initial group of 12. Like Pascual, some of the actors-painters are self-taught, among them Cris Villanueva, Baron Geisler and Nadia Montenegro. The rest are fine arts graduates or accomplished visual artists, like the Lobangco sisters Lani and Rachel, comedian Joey de Leon, singer Victor Wood, actor Jao Mapa, and erstwhile actor Dranreb Belleza.

Cesar Montano and brother Rommel, Jeffrey Quizon, Snooky Serna, Ruby Rodriguez's husband Mark Aquino, directors Al Quinn and Danny Zialcita, the late Vic Vargas and Lopez complete this year's roster of 20.

MAPA

"Painting is something you can do even if you are in a different profession," says Villanueva, who has been giving away his works to friends. Discovering his proclivity to the visual arts at age 11, he chose to focus on a different art form, which is performing for an audience. Sometime ago, he picked up the brush once more but only as a pastime, and sat in art classes in UP. He first dabbled in oil before he shifted to chalk pastels.

"Oil is okay if you have time," he says. "It's tedious. *Nagsawa na rin ako sa* nudes, so I want to try different subjects."

UST fine arts graduate Mapa says he's an expressionist who, being a mood painter, prefers acrylic over oil "because it dries faster. I want to see the result on the spot." Having joined group exhibits in the past, he concedes, however, that he's a better actor than a painter so he's working hard to make a comeback bid in show biz.

"If you have a gift [for acting], *sayang naman kung hindi gamitin*," he says. "Besides, I now have a kid so that's what drives me to work harder."

Born to an architect dad, sisters Lani and Rachel Lobangco grew up with immense interest in the arts. They both took up fine arts in UST and interior design at the Philippine School of Interior Design before they forayed into acting.

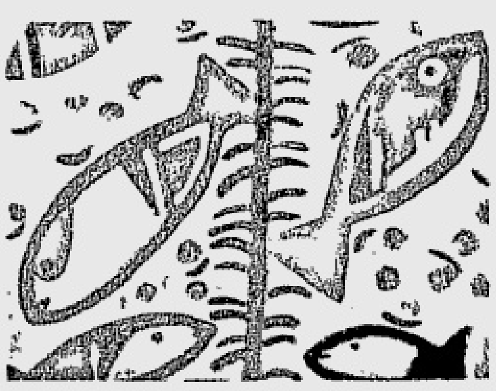
Lani says she paints for the love of it, and not to make money. In fact, she teaches art to kids in her studio for free.

"This is a gift (from God," says Lani. "I want to share it *na walang kapalit*." Like Rachel, she gives her works to friends who ask for them as gifts.

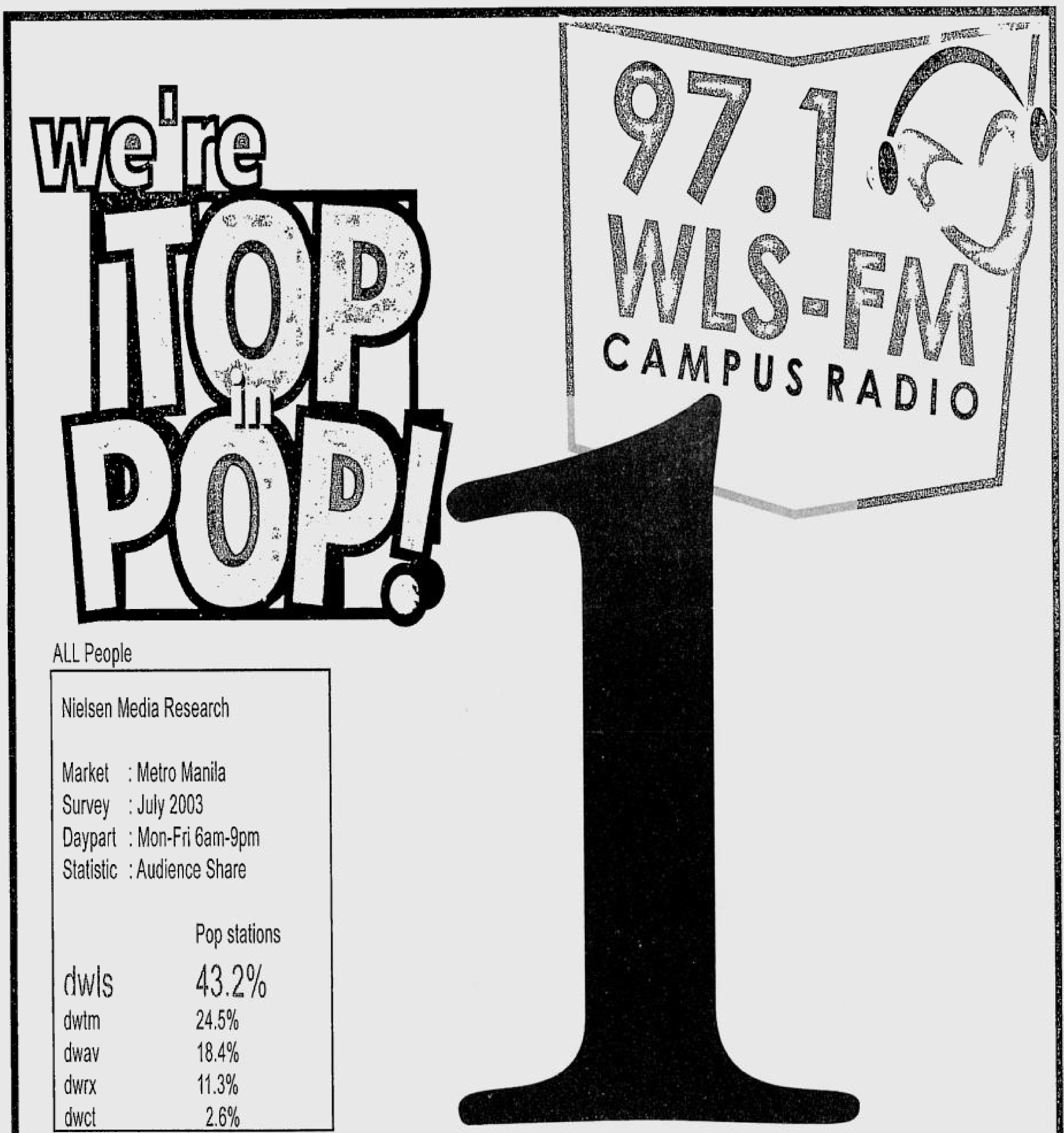
"It's flattering to see your work hung in someone else's home," Rachel says.

These consummate painting sisters have held exhibits of their own in the past, only joining group shows like "Artists as Artists II" with one goal in mind: to seek recognition for visual artists. The sisters lament how some

STARS/ C6



NADIA MONTENEGRO, acrylic on canvas



ALL People

Nielsen Media Research

Market : Metro Manila
Survey : July 2003
Daypart : Mon-Fri 6am-9pm
Statistic : Audience Share

	Pop stations
dwls	43.2%
dwtm	24.5%
dwav	18.4%
dwrx	11.3%
dwct	2.6%

Upper Class
ABC1 10-24 yrs old

Nielsen Media Research

Market : Metro Manila
Survey : July 2003
Daypart : Mon-Sat 6am-6pm
Statistic : Audience Share

	Pop stations
dwls	35.1%
dwtm	33.1%
dwrx	17.1%
dwav	12.7%
dwct	2.0%

Students
ABCDE 10-24 yrs old

Nielsen Media Research

Market : Metro Manila
Survey : July 2003
Daypart : Mon-Fri 6am-6pm
Statistic : Audience Share

	Pop stations
dwls	47.8%
dwav	23.5%
dwtm	16.0%
dwrx	12.5%
dwct	0.1%

Students and Yuppies
ABCDE 10-29 yrs old

Nielsen Media Research

Market : Metro Manila
Survey : July 2003
Daypart : Mon-Fri 6am-6pm
Statistic : Audience Share

	Pop stations
dwls	46.5%
dwav	22.3%
dwtm	16.3%
dwrx	12.9%
dwct	2.0%

RGMA NETWORK, INC.

THE LISTENER IS BOSS!

GMA

ENTERTAINMENT

WINNERS and married couple Chip and Reichen

Those amazing men of 'The Amazing Race'

By Joyce C. Abaño and Jasmine W. Payo

AMONG the reality shows on television, "The Amazing Race" of CBS remains one of the most exciting and daring. In its fourth installment, 12 teams of two participants each had to travel four continents, 24 cities and 44,000 miles to win the $1-million prize.

The Emmy nominee for Outstanding Reality/Competition Program ended with three finalists in a final sprint at Papago Park in Arizona. Married gay couple Reichen Lehmkuhl and Chip Arndt became the winners of the show's fourth and perhaps final race (CBS has not hinted if there will be a fifth), narrowly defeating engaged couple Kelly Parks and Jon Corso. Best friends David Dean and Jeff Strnad finished in third place.

Days after the final leg of the race was shown on TV, AXN Asia hosted a teleconference with other journalists from other Asian countries and the four hunks of "The Amazing Race" — Reichen and Chip, and David and Jeff.

Keeping a secret

The race actually ended in February. The four guys shared how difficult it was to keep the results a secret for six months. David, 32, said it was probably harder for him and Jeff, as well as for Jon and Kelly, because they could not tell their friends that they had lost.

ALSO-RAN David and Jeff

Everything that was shown on TV wasn't entirely accurate, according to the two teams.

"For instance," said Reichen, 28, a pilot, "when we were in Korea, they kept showing Chip saying 'speak English,' and it made him sound like he hated anybody that didn't speak English, which seemed quite discriminating, and that was definitely taken out of context."

Jeff, 37, a commercial and residential broker, agreed and added that there were also certain things they wished had been shown but had been edited out. "We had a lot of funny moments that they decided not to include, like our goofing around," he said. "And I heard a lot of people saying we always get lost. But it's tough to make it far in the race if we were making that many mistakes."

Uncomfortable in India

Seeing themselves on TV was definitely a learning experience for the guys. "You look at yourself and you say, 'Hmm, that's not the best way to react in that situation," said Chip, 36, a consultant and entrepreneur from Beverly Hills. "But I think I'm very lucky because we were able to see ourselves on national TV and see how we actually responded, so we have an opportunity to improve on little things."

The race gave these sexy specimens of manhood a new outlook on the countries they visited during the race. Reichen shared he felt really uncomfortable being in India. "It's difficult to see the level of poverty and it's hard to be racing around and seeing an abandoned child as you pass by," he said. "It makes you stop and appreciate what you have."

There were instances when they felt danger in being in a foreign land. "I was terrified and had the biggest lump in my throat when we approached the border between North and South Korea and seeing all the military people standing there and watching us," said David. "To me that was really intimidating."

David added with a laugh: "But I thought I was in greatest danger when I was in a hotel room next to Chip and Reichen. Whenever I hear something, all the muscles in my body would tighten up and I'd get so nervous."

Chip shot back, "He just actually wanted to come and stay in our room at night."

Playing in 'Frasier'

The men have been getting TV offers. Reichen said he was asked by Paramount casting to read for a part, and he won a role in the 11th and final season of "Frasier."

"Reichen speaks his first line ever on national television," said Chip. Added Reichen, "The line is, I'm asking Niles and Daphne if I can borrow some sugar, when they are talking about borrowing some sperm from a sperm bank and who would provide the perfect sperm. It's a really funny scene. I hope you get to see it." When asked if he's entertaining thoughts of joining the entertainment business, David seriously said, "I have been contacted by an acting manager who wants to introduce me to some agencies."

An easy way to stardom is not the only thing they've gained from the race. "I think the most important thing I learned," said David, "is that you can just be as effective with levity and humor as you can with a scowl on your face."

Said Jeff, "I would say that I learned to not take yourself and life too seriously and to enjoy each moment. You're having fun here. Enjoy the path that you're on."

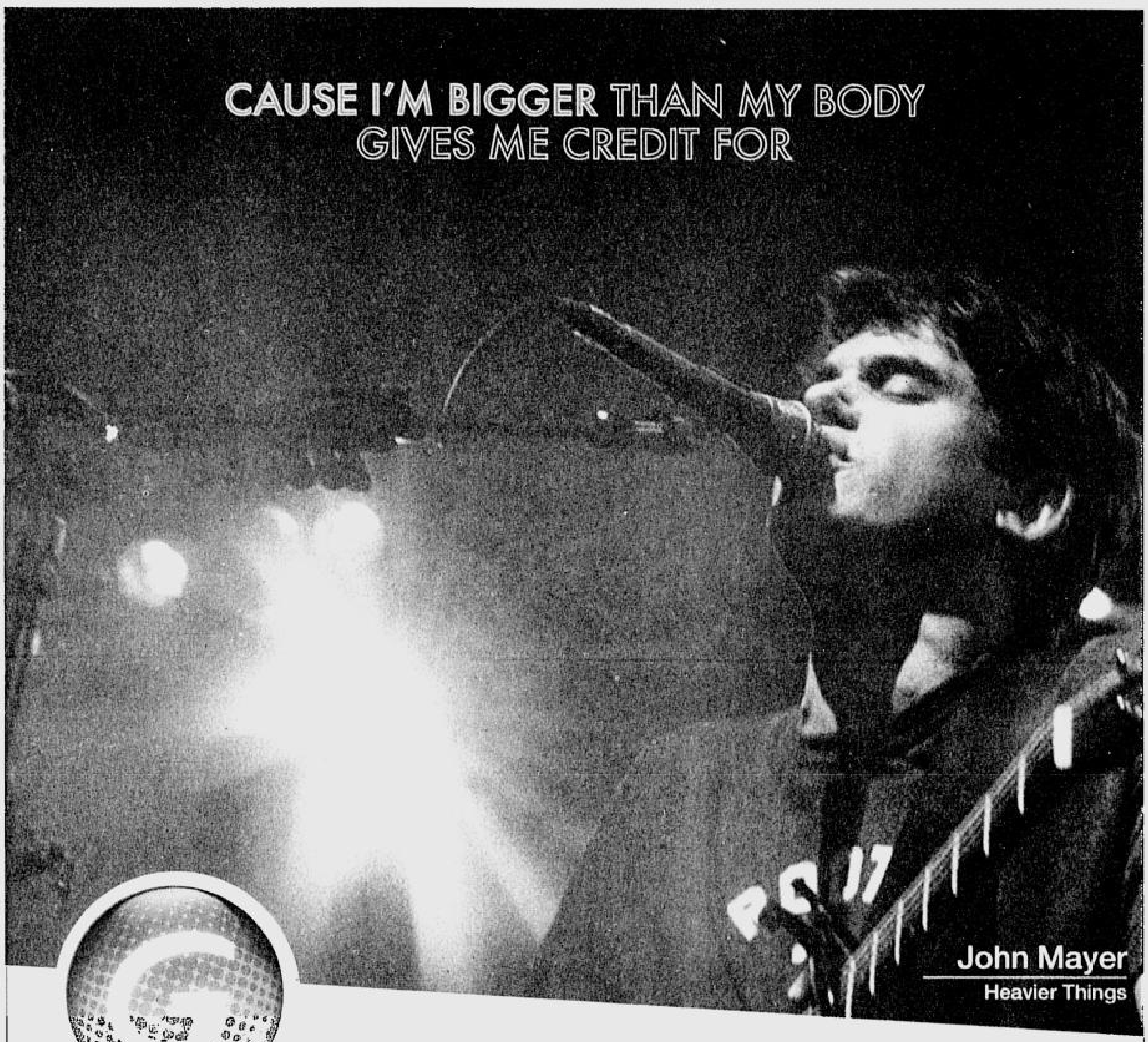
Making each other happy

Being in the spotlight, however, also meant that media would scrutinize their personal lives. Chip and Reichen, for instance, have been rumored to be separated. When asked about the current state of their relationship, Reichen gave a vague answer, saying he and Chip have been having problems since they got back from the race, but that they're working on it.

"There really is no solid answer we can give," said Reichen. "It's a relationship like any other, which has problems, and we've been working on it. But Chip and I love each other very much and we're committed to make each other happy. And that's what we will do."

The men said the race taught them perseverance and tested their physical and mental skills to the limit, and also taught them the importance of having each other to lean on.

All in all "it's a real amazing experience," Reichen exclaimed.



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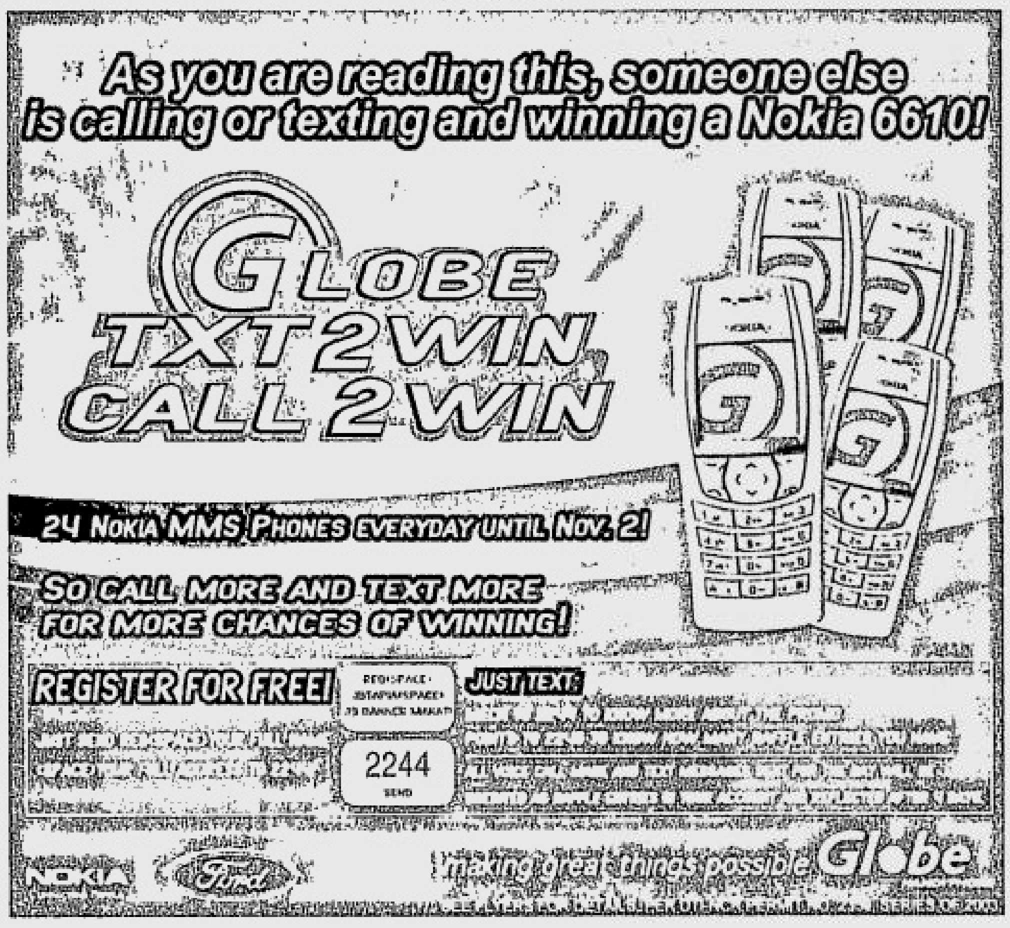
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Sir Elton John and Bill Blass: Pieces of legends

BUST of Napoleon from the Elton John collection

The two high priests of style are unloading fabled possessions via top auction house Sotheby's

STORY ON PAGE D2



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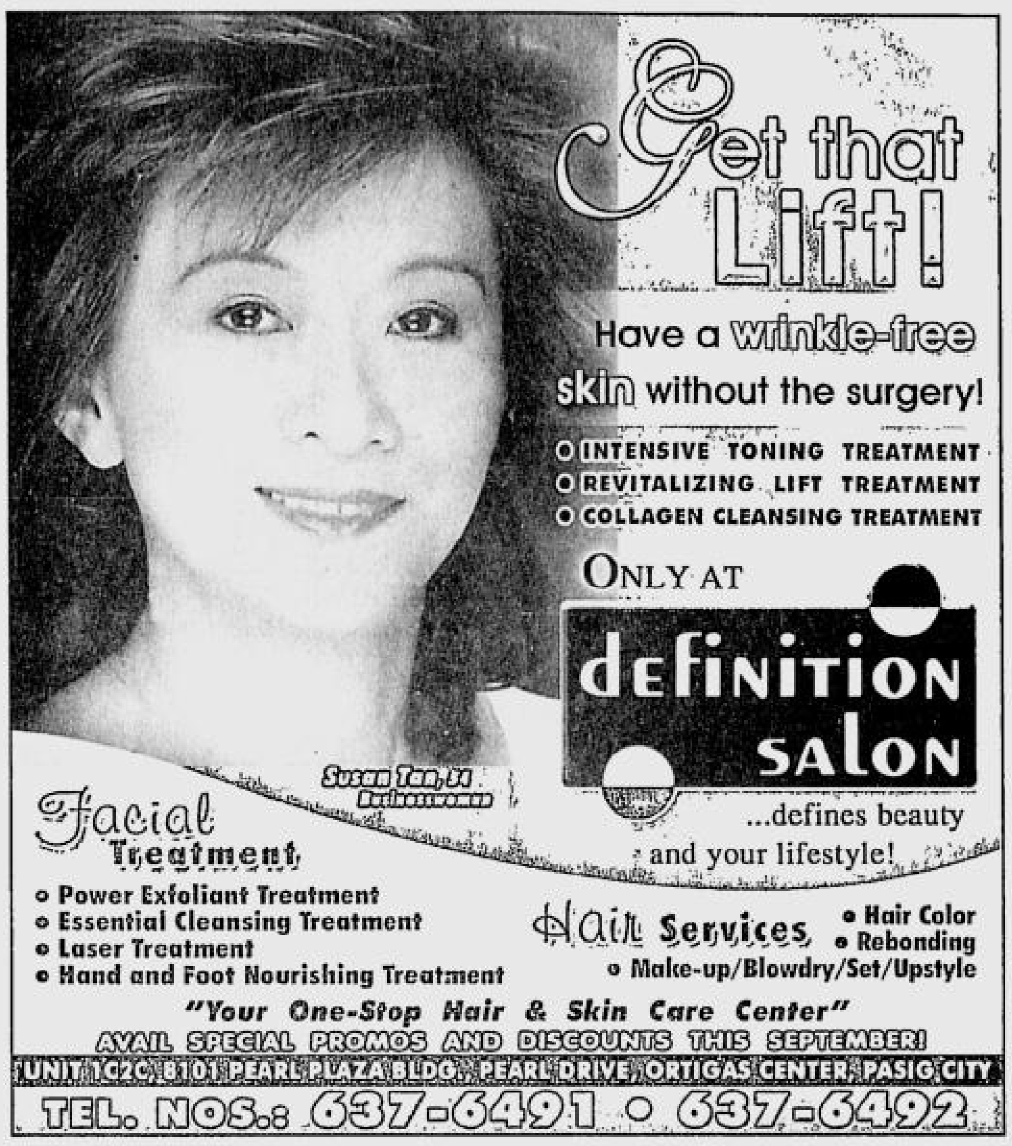

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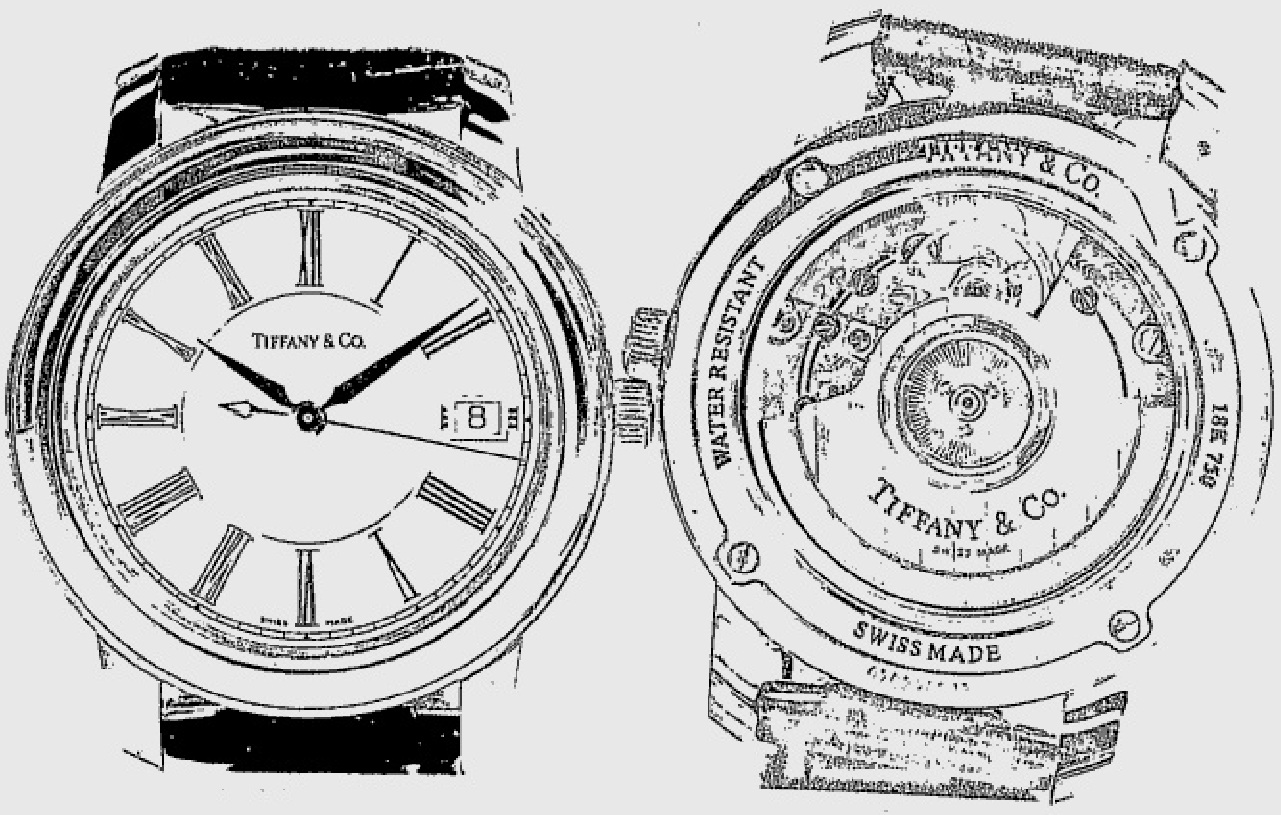

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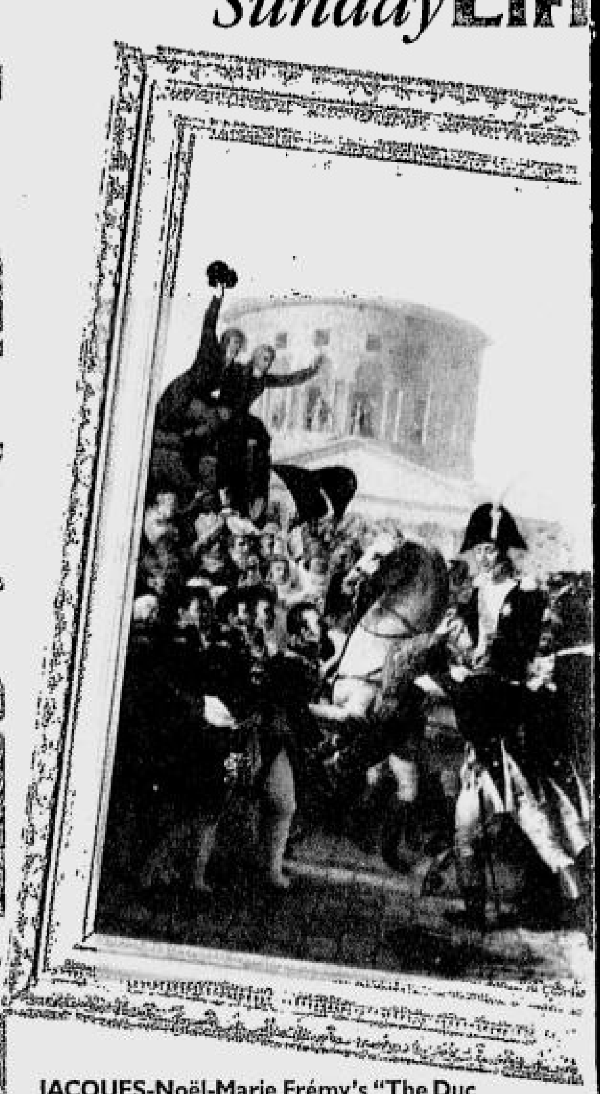
SIR Elton John in the drawing room of his Holland Park home, with an Old Master painting in the background

PRECIOUS bric-a-brac adorn the rock star's Holland Park drawing room.



JACQUES-Noël-Marie Frémy's "The Duc d'Artois entering Paris" from the Elton John collection

Sir Elton John and Bill Blass: Pieces of legends

By Kitty Go
Contributor

THE RICH are different from you and me. And they just have way too much stuff.

Take Sir Elton John, who is selling the contents of his London home to accommodate a burgeoning contemporary art and photography collection. Others, like legendary American designer Bill Blass, who passed away in June 2002, seek to continue their philanthropic work beyond the grave with a single-owner sale whose proceeds will benefit New York Hospital AIDS Care Center and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The famous entertainer and philanthropist is selling his possessions through Sotheby's on New Bond Street on Sept. 30, and with that, some bittersweet memories of 11 years at the Holland Park address.

He first moved into the house in 1992 while fighting alcohol and drug addiction. Yet it was also in this very house, using the furniture in this sale, that Elton and David Furnish entertained celebrities like Bill Clinton and Kevin Spacey.

Elton gives his love for contemporary art as the reason for the 400-lot sale, which the auction house is estimating to gross over $1.2 million.

"I wanted to have the opportunity to display more contemporary work in one of my UK homes, but as my house in Windsor has a very traditional style, the obvious choice was to remodel my Holland Park home, both in terms of layout and interior design, to give me more scope for exhibiting this collection," he said.

This is not the first time Sotheby's has sold Elton John property. In 1988, there was a three-day sale of about 2,000 lots of jewelry, memorabilia and works of art from his country house, the Old Windsor estate.

At the time, Sotheby's then chair, Lord Gowrie, predicted that "Elton the Collector" would start again, and happily for collectors everywhere, and for Sotheby's, he was right.

The sale features a good selection of Biedermeier furniture from the first quarter of the 19th century, which includes chests of drawers, chairs, console tables and secretaires. There are also 19th-century paintings, bronze sculptures and Venetian glass.

One of the highlights of the sale is the magnificent bedroom suite commissioned by furniture designer David Linley, cousin of Prince Charles and son of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, the famous society and fashion photographer.

All furniture is veneered and inlaid in blonde wood. The Linley suite, whose furniture will be sold individually, consists of a double bed, two wardrobe closets, a pair of bedside tables, a banquette and tub chairs upholstered in faux leopard fabric.

Blass' class on display

It seems like Sotheby's is the auction house of choice when it comes to designer sales. When Karl Lagerfeld looked to sell the contents of his Paris flat, he turned to them. Likewise, the estate of Bill Blass is having them sell the contents of his Manhattan Sutton Place apartment and his 18th-century country house in New Preston, Connecticut.

Over a thousand lots, costing from a couple hundred to over a hundred thousand dollars, are expected to garner more than $10 million in a three-day charity sale from Oct. 21-23.

"We are so delighted to offer Bill Blass' Collection. His impact on 20th-century American style is unforgettable and simply unmatched," commented James G. Niven, vice chair of Sotheby's.

"What's even more remarkable was his kindness and generosity. The idea of giving back to the community was rewritten by Bill, and his support of such worthy institutions as the New York Public Library, New York Hospital and the Metropolitan Museum of Art serves as a model for the world to follow," he added.

Prior to the sale, which very likely will be the highlight of the New York auction season, a special exhibition will be mounted at the. 10th floor galleries of Sotheby's New York. Room vignettes will display the fashion legend's remarkable eclectic taste which embraced the classic, the modern and the offbeat with the same inimitable style which marked his design career.

Bill Blass built his 40-year career "(charming) the clothes right onto a woman's back," starting as a $35-a-week sketch artist in 1940. He joined the US Army for three and a half years, then returned to New York after World War II, joining Anne Klein as an assistant.

But it was when he worked for Anna Miller in the '70s that he gained recognition and got his name on the label. He later bought the company and christened it Bill Blass Ltd.

He was one of the first American designers to show to an international audience in no less than the Palace of Versailles. He received countless awards over the years for his women's and men's fashion designs, and was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America in 1987. He was also the first recipient of its Humanitarian Leadership Award in 1996.

His success was only matched by his generosity. In 1994 he gave $10 million to the New York Public Library and was an early supporter of AIDS programs, organizing benefits for AIDS care at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center.

But Blass' seemingly serious publicity photographs belie his sense of humor and ease. He lived in polished urban grandeur during the week and relaxed comfort on weekends in Connecticut. His meatloaf recipe is as legendary as his social skills.

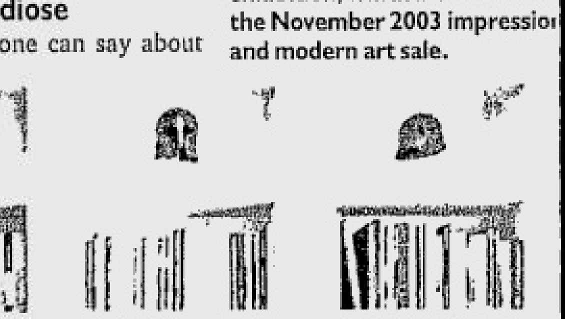
Client, fellow philanthropist and doyenne of the New York's Old Guard, Brooke Astor, once noted, "I always was so happy when I sat next to him at a dinner. I knew it would be a fun evening."

Grand but not grandiose

If there is anything one can say about

"ANGELIS," a sculpture of Alexander the Great, from the Elton John collection

BLASS only slept with the best in his New York apartment: Jacobus Biltius' m
the January 2004 Old Master paintings sale; a large three-cushioned sofa and



PICASSO'S "Nu Couche" (193
is part of the Museum of Moder
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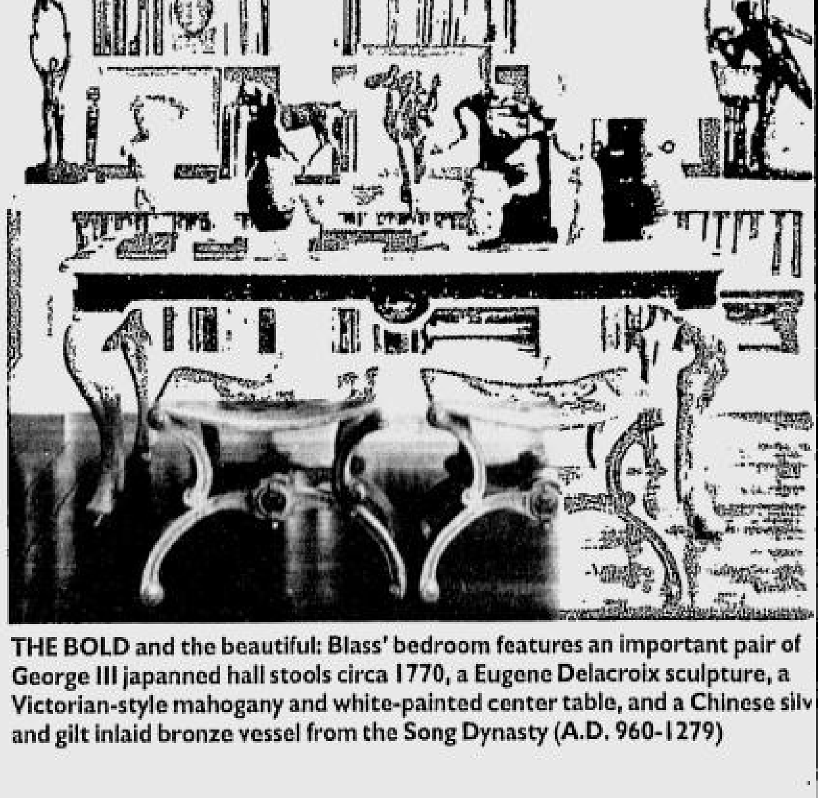

THE BOLD and the beautiful: Blass' bedroom features an important pair of George III japanned hall stools circa 1770, a Eugene Delacroix sculpture, a Victorian-style mahogany and white-painted center table, and a Chinese silv
and gilt inlaid bronze vessel from the Song Dynasty (A.D. 960-1279)

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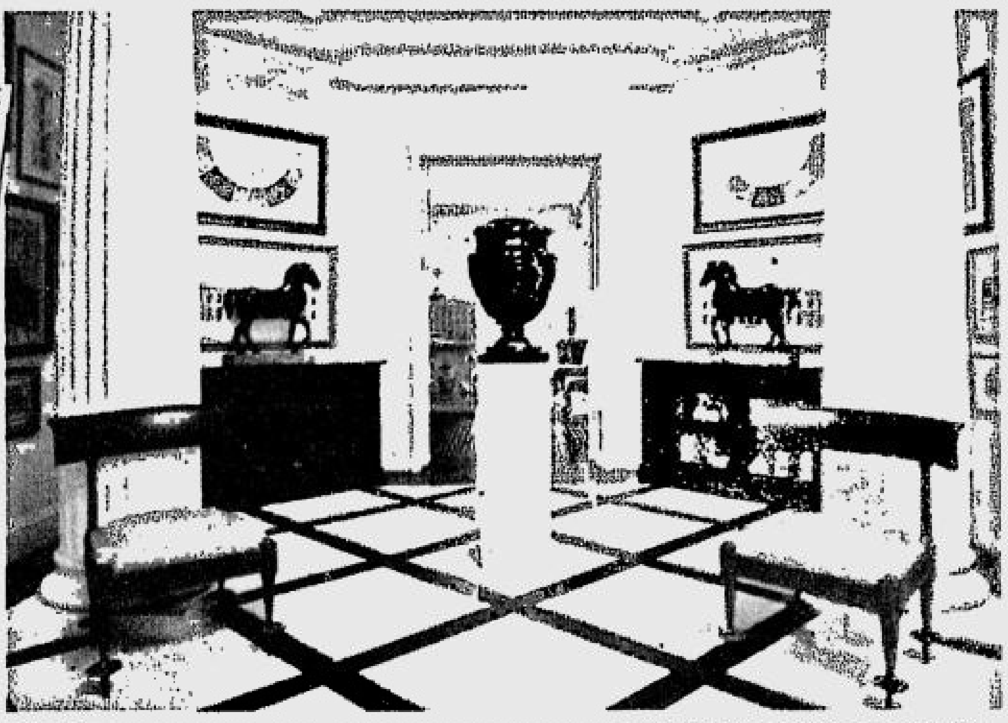
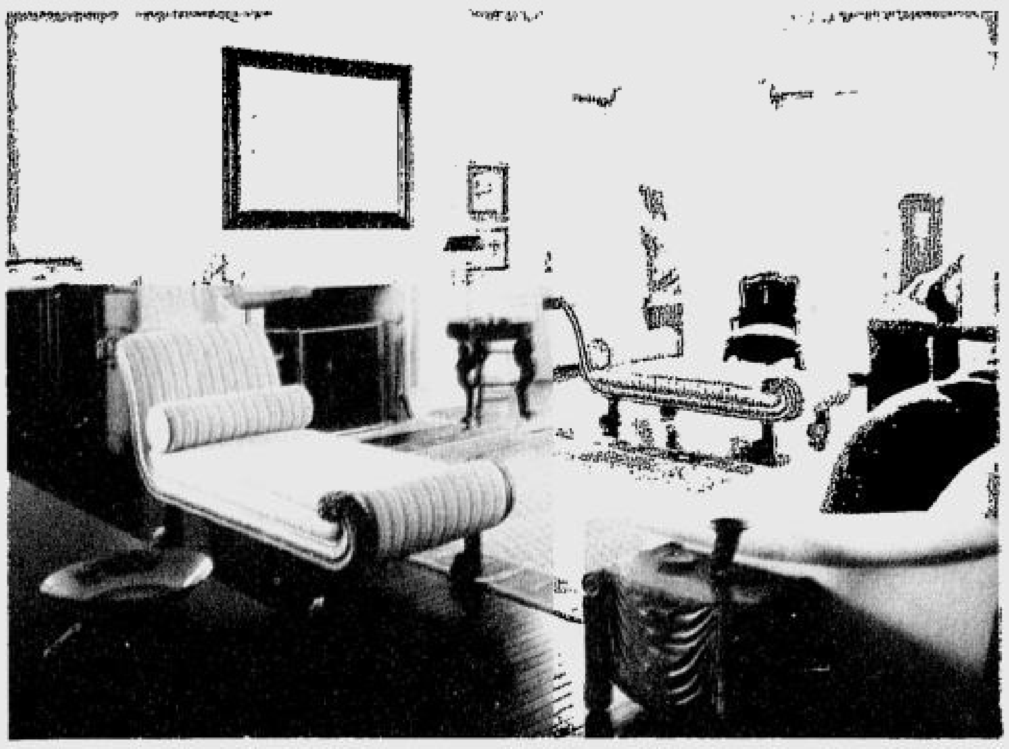


BILL Blass' New York apartment foyer puts the "grand" in grand entrance with an early 19th-century fine Russian large onyx urn, a pair of Regency ormolu-mounted mahogany bookcase cabinet, a large pair of 18th-19th century Italian bronze horses and a pair of Swedish neoclassical style-painted side chairs.



BLASS' living room had one of an important pair of George III simulated marble stools, a C.H. Tatham work circa 1800, a pair of Regency painted and parcel-gilt daybeds circa 1810 and Pablo Picasso's "Nu Couche" (1932) above the fireplace.

uskets and standards, 1666, which is to be offered in
Chinese bronze vessel.

Bill Blass' taste in clothes and interiors, it is consistency and consciousness. He is known to have said, "Rich women do not wear black. My clients wear color."

Indeed, his collections always featured color even at the time of drab, utilitarian minimalism.

"When in doubt, wear red," he also said.

His choice in interiors reflected the same boldness (verging on the quirky), sculptural quality and functionality his clothes were famous for.

Elaine Whitmire, Sotheby's expert in charge of the sale, summarized Blass as tastemaker. "He was a man who truly understood the meaning of style and celebrated the beauty of objects. The fine art, furniture and decorations offered in this sale are a reflection of his impeccable eye, sense of individuality, and classic, yet wide-ranging taste."

The American designer, who once put his name on everything from cars to chocolate, projected an aura of masculinity despite being gay, and the scale and ambience of his Sutton place apartment is testament to this.

Not one to buy based on provenance, he is quoted in his 2002 memoir, "Bare Blass": "To me, one of the most critical aspects of judging a room is whether it belongs to the person in it. There has to be a connection between the choices and the personality of the owner. By the time I bought One Sutton, I had the confidence—and, quite honestly, the means—to do the kind of apartment I wanted..."

Blass chose only the most unusual yet tasteful objects he could surround himself with. His New York apartment created a welcoming and harmonious home for classic pieces such as Old Master paintings, Italian bronzes, Russian and Swedish furniture, Chinese and Greco-Roman artifacts, and English antiques like Regency daybeds and ebonized cabinets, George III wooden stools, a William IV circular table.

Militaria, decorative objects with strong animal motifs and architectural scale models revealed the masculine side of him.

That is not to say there is no modern work, as there are pieces by Isamu Noguchi, as well as several important works of art, which will be auctioned separately, including a 1932 work by Picasso, "Nu Couche," currently part of the Matisse-Picasso exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art.

E-mail the author at kitty_go@hotmail.com

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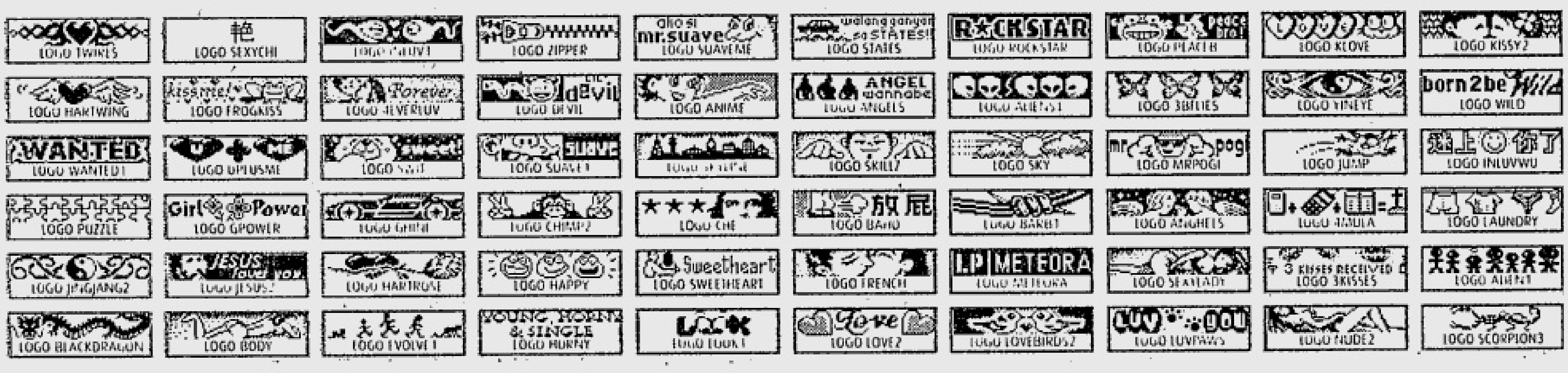
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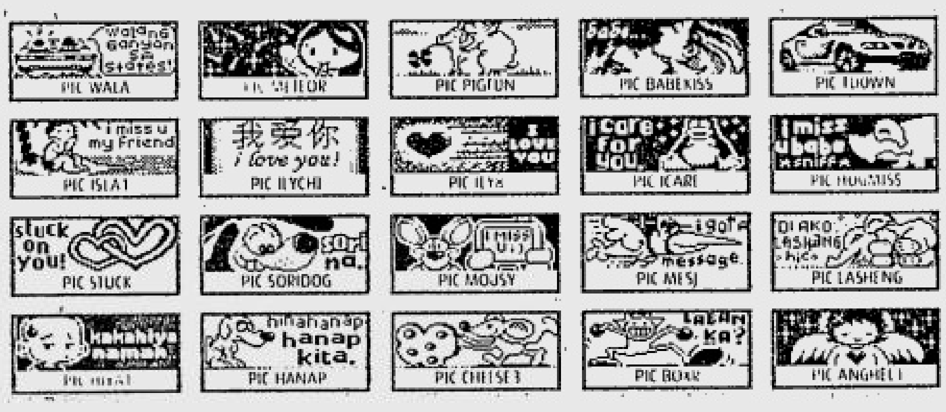
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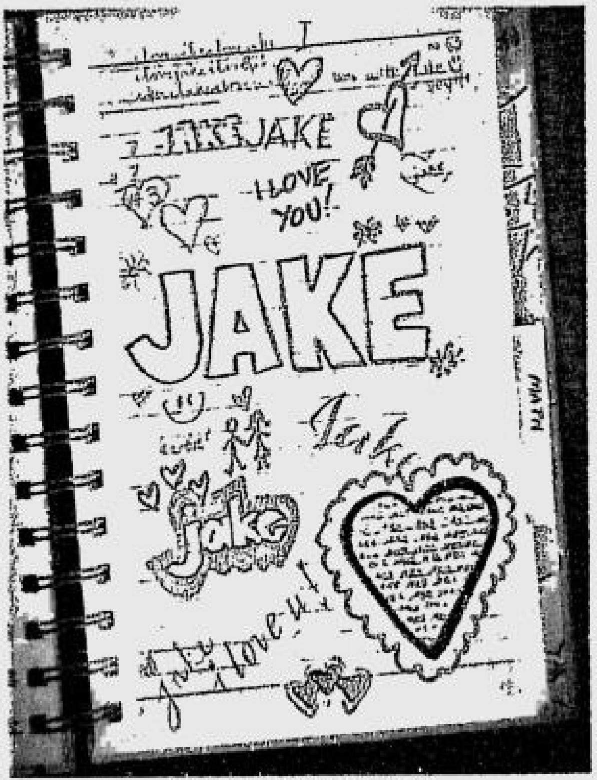
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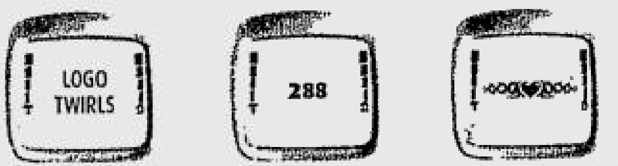
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By Alex Y. Vergara

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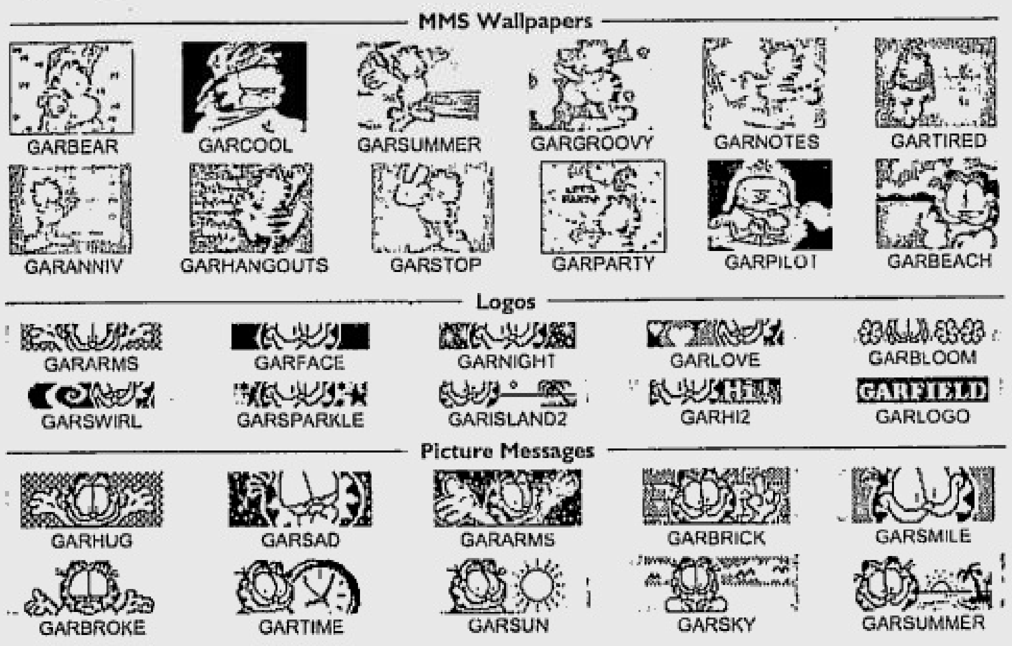
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Josephine Darang

"GOD Provides" is a compilation of stories of miracles wrought by God through the intercession of Blessed Josemaria Escriva before his canonization on Oct. 6, 2002.

Divided into 12 categories, the stories of miracles tell us how, through prayer and faith, people were helped by the mercy of God. The categories are prayer, conversions, confessions, work, ordinary life, friends, marriage and family, children, student life, safety, cures and illness, and death. Edited by Monina Allarey Mercado, the stories were gathered by an editorial team composed of Merle Basco, Vicki Elizaga, Nenita Escasa, Christine Gomez, Lita Hidalgo and Eileen Yordan. Violeta Laraya was assistant to the editor while Jimmy Hilario did the cover design.

The women are Opus Dei cooperators who formed the Friends in Art Inc. and Arts Unlimited. With the help of Gabriel Books, they published this magnificent book that gave hope to people in need, in despair, and in pain.

As I read, I found myself praying for the conversion of a friend, for the healing of a sick person and for someone to pass the bar exams.

One story that amazed me was the healing of Shirley Sangalang's right ear. It was submitted to the Causes of Saints in the Vatican in 1997 and was one of the major miracles that prompted the Vatican to approve the canonization of Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei.

Sangalang developed an infection in her right ear after she accidentally sprayed it with perfume. Pus came out of it and her entire eardrum disappeared, eaten away by the infection. She suffered great pain for three years. Her doctor, Eric Nubla, suggested surgery. She agreed after Dr. Nubla promised to pray to Blessed Escriva for her cure. In his prayer, Dr. Nubla challenged Escriva to heal Shirley's ear, if he was truly a saint.

Two weeks later, before the surgery could be performed, Sangalang went to the doctor for a checkup. To the doctor's amazement, Shirley's ear was healthy and the eardrum intact.

In a testimony, Dr. Nubla wrote: "I felt so humbled. An interior conviction assured me that it was Msgr. Escriva's intercession that obtained Shirley's cure, and also not just for her benefit, but also to win my heart."

Where to buy the book

The book is available at Sinagtala Publishers, which distributes books written by and about St. Escriva. Visit the book fair at the SM Megamall today and look for the Sinagtala booth. Or call 8971161 or 8971162 to order "God Provides," a book of hope.

Monastery turns 20

When Gang Gomez announced in 1991 that he would join the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, we, his friends, could not believe it. At that time, Gang was one of Manila's famous fashion designers. But he was serious and, since 1991, has been living in the monastery as Dom Martin de Jesus Gomez, OSB. Dom Martin and 13 other monks marked the monastery's 20 years Aug. 6, feast of the Transfiguration.

The monastery, besides being a spiritual center in southern Philippines, continues to receive more people in the spirit of monastic hospitality and fraternal service. It is involved in the socio-economic, cultural, ecological and spiritual development of the farming community where it finds itself.

If you want to go on a retreat at the monastery, whether alone or in a group, call (088) 2212373 for reservations. Those interested in a monastic vocation may write to The Vocation Director, Monastery of the Transfiguration, San Jose, Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

Prayer house

A group of men and women that calls itself the "God Love Catholic Charismatic Community" would like to have a prayer house of its own. Right now, the group holds its fellowship meetings at the Meralco Foundation every Wednesday. The group is holding a fundraising concert featuring the Spirit of '67 at 7 p.m., Sept. 26, Club Filipino in Greenhills.

Guest performer is Ding Mercado, who is also a member. For tickets, please call 6330080. Don't miss the Spirit of '67 as it performs for three hours of singing and dancing. By buying a ticket, you also help build a prayer house for God.

Serene moments

"Serene Moments" is the initial music CD production of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Sr. Belinda Ma. R. Salazar, FMM composed the music during an eight-day retreat.

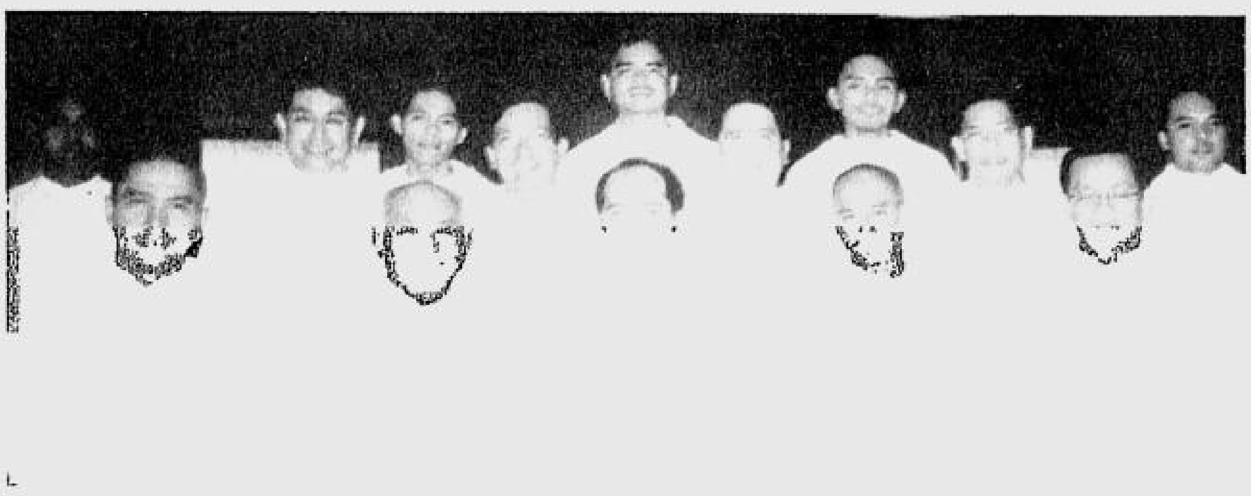
"Serene Moments Instrumental Meditative Music" is available at a very reasonable price (much, much less than the price for music CD of this category and quality) at the Don Bosco Religious Store Makati, Mary the Queen Parish Greenhills, Philippine Christian Bookstore (Metro Manila branches), Pauline Religious Stores, Jes Com Ateneo, Stella Maris College and any FMM Convent. Proceeds from the sale will benefit FMM missions in 76 countries: "to the farthest… to the poorest… in service and in dialogue."

Triduum for Peñafrancia

The devotees of Our Lady of Peñafrancia in Metro Manila will hold a Triduum of Masses from Sept. 11 to 13 at 6 p.m. at St. Andrew Church in Bel Air, Makati. The pilgrim image will be brought in a motorcade on Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. at Hospicio de San Jose port for the fluvial procession to Jones Bridge where she will be met by women devotees. They will carry her in a procession to the Manila Cathedral where Bishop Nestor Carino will officiate the Concelebrated Mass at 6 p.m.

Manaoag celebrates BVM birthday

The Manaoag Parish Community spearheaded by the PREX leaders will hold a Marian Vigil on Sept. 7 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. in Manaoag, Pangasinan. Admission is free.



MONKS of the Monastery of Transfiguration with Dom Savio, Abbot (center) and Dom Martin de Jesus (back row, second from left)

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Red-letter days for Belgium and Canada

THE NATIONAL day of the Kingdom of Belgium was recently celebrated in Cebu, the first time it was done so outside Manila.

Hosts were Belgian Ambassador **Christiaan Tanghe** and his wife, Mme. **Gul Tanghe**, and Belgium's honorary consul in Cebu **Enrique Benedicto** with his wife **Helena**.

A fitting venue was chosen—the Del Sol suites at the Waterfront Hotel, with their carmine red silk panels and numerous crystal chandeliers. In his eloquent speech before the toasts, Ambassador Tanghe mentioned that two Belgians were in Ferdinand Magellan's expedition that discovered Cebu in 1521.

At that time, Belgium did not exist as an independent nation but was part of the sprawling Hapsburg Empire, then ruled by Charles V the Great, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and the first of that name to be king of Spain.

Belgium as we know it today was established in 1830 with Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (maternal uncle of England's Queen Victoria) as its first monarch. His dynasty still rules today.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

Many prominent Cebuanos were around for the bash, and some guests flew in from Manila like **Helen Ong**, honorary consul of Belize, and **Amelia Ablaza**, honorary consul of Guatemala. The party was such fun it went on well beyond the prescribed hour.

Canada's turn

Canada's honorary consul in Cebu, **Robert Lee**, and his wife, **Pek An T. Lee**, flew to Manila for the grand celebration of Canada Day. They were back in Cebu in no time to prepare for a post celebration, also held at the Waterfront Hotel.

Canadian Ambassador **Robert Collette** came, along with Hon. **David Kilgour**, Canada's Secretary of State for Asia Pacific, and Hon. **Karen Redman**, member of Canada's parliament for Kitchener Center in Ontario.

Toasts were made by all three to the continued friendship of both countries, with Cebu Gov. **Pablo Garcia** and Cebu City Mayor **Tommy Osmeña** reciprocating the compliments.

Cheers to our friends from these two countries on their respective national days

PEK An T. Lee, Canada's honorary consul Robert Lee, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Mme. Justice Lorna Snowie of Ontario and Virginia Davide

Also joining the ambassador's party was the embassy's Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs **Heather Forton** and Mme. Justice **Lorna Snowie** of Ontario's Superior Court. She was seen exchanging pleasantries with Chief Justice **Hilario Davide** and his wife **Virginia**.

Welcoming the Pagtakhans

After this affair, Ambassador Colette was back in Cebu, this time as honoree in a farewell dinner hosted by the Philippine Ambassador to Canada **Francisco Benedicto**.

This was held amid the splendor of White Gold House, which could rival some of the palace walls in Beijing's Forbidden City. Needless to say, a lauriat worthy of an emperor was served.

The occasion was also to welcome Dr. Rey **Pagtakhan** and his wife **Gloria Visarra-Pagtakhan**. Rey is a pediatrician who migrated to Canada in 1967 and became a citizen in 1974. He is now the Secretary of State for Science, Research and Development and concurrent Minister for Veteran Affairs—the highest position ever attained by a Filipino in the Canadian Government.

Gloria Pagtakhan has Visayan roots. She is from Bohol, and had spent her student days at Cebu's University of Southern Philippines whose president, **Ron Duterte**, and board chairperson, **Jun Jereza**, were at the celebration.

Also present were Tommy and **Margot Osmeña**, Cebu City Reps. **Raul del Mar** and **Tony Cuenco**, plus a good representation from the Consular corps and Gloria's relatives from Bohol.

Robert and **Anna Lee** had prepared a detailed itinerary for the visitors which included a sojourn in Tagbilaran City, capital of Bohol. Gloria's first cousins **Lydia Visarra Peñalosa** and **Leticia Visarra Reyes** were on hand to receive them, along with a large group led by **Cynthia Visarra Reyes-Ayco**, who is president of the Visarra clan association.

Dr. and Ms Pagtakhan visited the Chocolate Hills, saw the tarsier monkeys (a species only found in Bohol), and went on a sentimental journey to the town of Sevilla where Gloria was born.

Her aunt, **Perpetua Visarra**, was overjoyed to see them, as she recalled the old days when Gloria was under her care. The couple also visited the Visarra family's 19th-century ancestral home, now under the management of lawyer **Alexander Cabagnot Patac**.

Retracing Legazpi's journey

A memorable activity for the Pagtakhans was the leisurely river tour from Lobok with its beautiful scenery. Bohol is probably one of the last places in the Philippines with abundant landscapes similar to those in **Amorsolo** paintings.

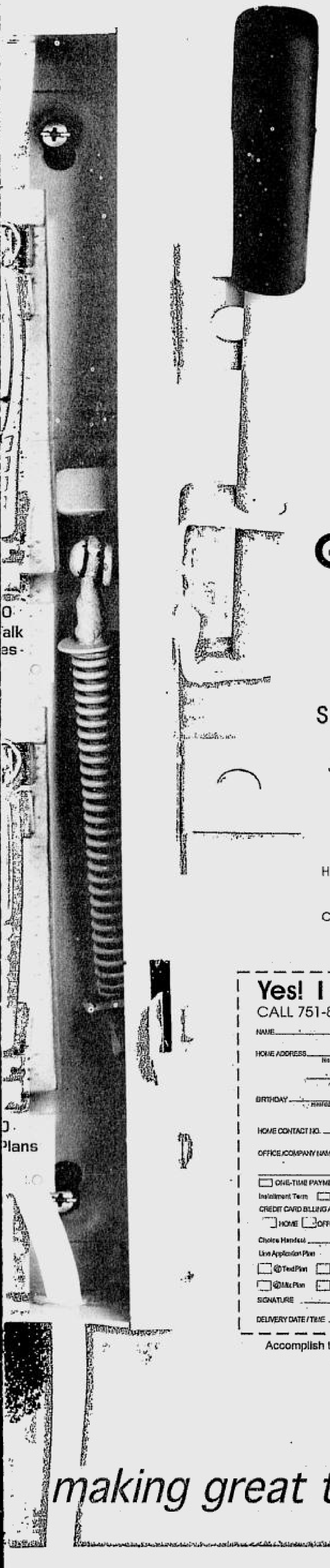
This was mentioned by filmmaker **Borja** and his wife **Belen Cardelus**, who spent a day in Bohol choosing spots to film a documentary on **Miguel Lopez de Legazpi**'s voyage to the Philippines in 1565.

Legazpi is known in history for his peaceful ways. When he entered Philippine waters, he made a blood compact with Bohol's King **Sikatuna** before coming to Cebu and establishing the first Spanish settlement there. Later, Legazpi went to Manila in 1571.

Señor Cardelus is a film director with SEEI España, an entity in Spain which takes charge of international expositions. He will be back in the country in October or November.

BELGIAN Ambassador Christiaan Tanghe, Antony Jackson and Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia

DR. REY and Gloria Pagtakhan with Philippine Ambassador to Canada Francisco Benedicto



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River of life

From page E1

CT scans, blood tests and bone density tests, among others, are now quite routine to her.

Should the test results prove encouraging, Rio hopes to be back in the arms of her husband, Rep. Charlie Cojuangco of Negros Occidental, and their two children, Claudia and Jaime, in two weeks. (Ali, her 20-year-old son by former husband Hajji Alejandro, lives with his paternal grandmother.)

"So many things have happened to us during the past five years," says Rio, in between bites of fresh green salad at a restaurant in Greenbelt. "It has been an emotional roller-coaster ride. That I've come a long way is perhaps an understatement."

Despite close brushes with death (she lapsed into a 10-day coma last January), Rio surprisingly looks healthy. Not even the devastating effects of chemotherapy, which she now takes in tablet form, are enough to permanently disfigure her.

"The tablet is a gentler form of chemotherapy that has very little side effects," she says. Rio's hearty appetite, unblemished skin and full head of hair seem to attest to this. "I haven't experienced anything aside from a mild, numbing sensation in my hands."

And although not as svelte as she was during her Mutya ng Pilipinas days, she can still make heads turn in a pair of black slacks and a clingy red cardigan that she wears over a white scoop-neck cotton tee. Her sunny disposition and serene presence instantly brightens up the room, foiling the gloom caused by a raging storm outside.

Divine salon

"I just came from a show, that's why I'm fully made up. But my real beauty parlor is up there," she says with a smile, while pointing to the heavens.

Rio, a Born-Again Christian, has made it a point, especially during the last five years, to tell the world how her "personal" relationship with Jesus Christ has transformed her and her family's outlook in life in the midst of adversity.

"I don't consider myself lucky, but blessed to have such a big and loving family to look after me," says the youngest in a brood of 12. "Their support has made a big difference."

Aside from Rio's faith in God, her children inspire her to keep on living. During the past five years, the two have practically lived with their ailing mom in the US, spending part of their schooling there.

"As much as possible, I try to help them with their homework," says Rio. "We spend most of our spare time reading children's books or inspirational stories about Jesus Christ and other biblical characters."

Telling her kids

Rio has told her kids she has cancer. Through such children's stories as "Mommy Has Cancer" and "Love You Forever," she was able to find the right words to make her children understand her unique situation.

"I don't think it's right to keep such a condition a secret to certain members of the family," says Rio. "Even the person suffering from it, as long as he or she is still in a right state of mind, has the right to know."

Rio is leaving the kids behind so they can get closer to their dad. Much as Charlie wants to be with her in the US, he has pressing duties to attend to here.

In the US at one time, Jaime, now 6, couldn't tell anything substantial about his dad. He was once asked in school what his dad did, and all the poor boy could answer was "he sends us money." When Charlie, during one of his visits to the US, asked his son how he felt, he got an unexpected answer.

"He said he felt sad," says Rio, "but most of the time he felt angry. He was angry at the fact that Pa Duck (Charlie) couldn't be with them all the time."

Leaving the kids behind is also a tacit admission that her life has now become a matter of touch and go. "As a mother, I think I've done my best to introduce God to my kids," she says. "But I also realized that they also need their father in case something happens to me."

Claudia was barely four and Jaime was two when Rio first learned of her sickness. The kids since then have always been by her side, particularly when she bounced back from the brink of death last January.

At that time, the family members had braced themselves for the worst. Even her doctors, led by Dr. George Fisher, had nearly given up hope on her.

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH. Rio and Charlie Cojuangco have become closer despite all the adversities that have come their way. Should she pass away ahead of him, her only wish is that he marry a "godly" woman.

MOMMY HAS CANCER. Rio relishes every waking moment with kids Jaime and Claudia. For the first time in years, she will leave behind her kids when she flies to the US today.

"It's usually not the person, but his or her loved ones who have a more difficult time dealing with the effects of cancer," she says. "They [relatives] don't know how to react to you, how to take care of you. Not once, for instance, did Charlie and Ali wish that instead of me they be the ones to go through the pain."

Despite being hardened by experience, Rio, who describes the particular episode as one "long sleep," was still overwhelmed by it. The images of her children, especially little Jaime, caressing her and thanking God through their tears soon after she gained consciousness are forever seared in her memory.

"At six years old, Jaime was a picture of child-like faith," she says. "He was caressing my legs and thanking Jesus in between sobs."

Not bitter

Through it all, Rio has found no reason to feel bitter. If anything, the "miracle" all the more strengthened her faith in God as well as her resolve to live a "purpose-driven" life.

Was it serendipity or simply divine will at work? When Rio went to church one day, she stumbled upon an inspirational book titled "A Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren. The book, she says, is now the subject of various study groups.

"Each of us has a purpose in life," says Rio, who found hers not long after learning about her ailment. "Cancer seemed so remote to me back then. Now, I can say with conviction that I completely understand the experiences people with cancer go through."

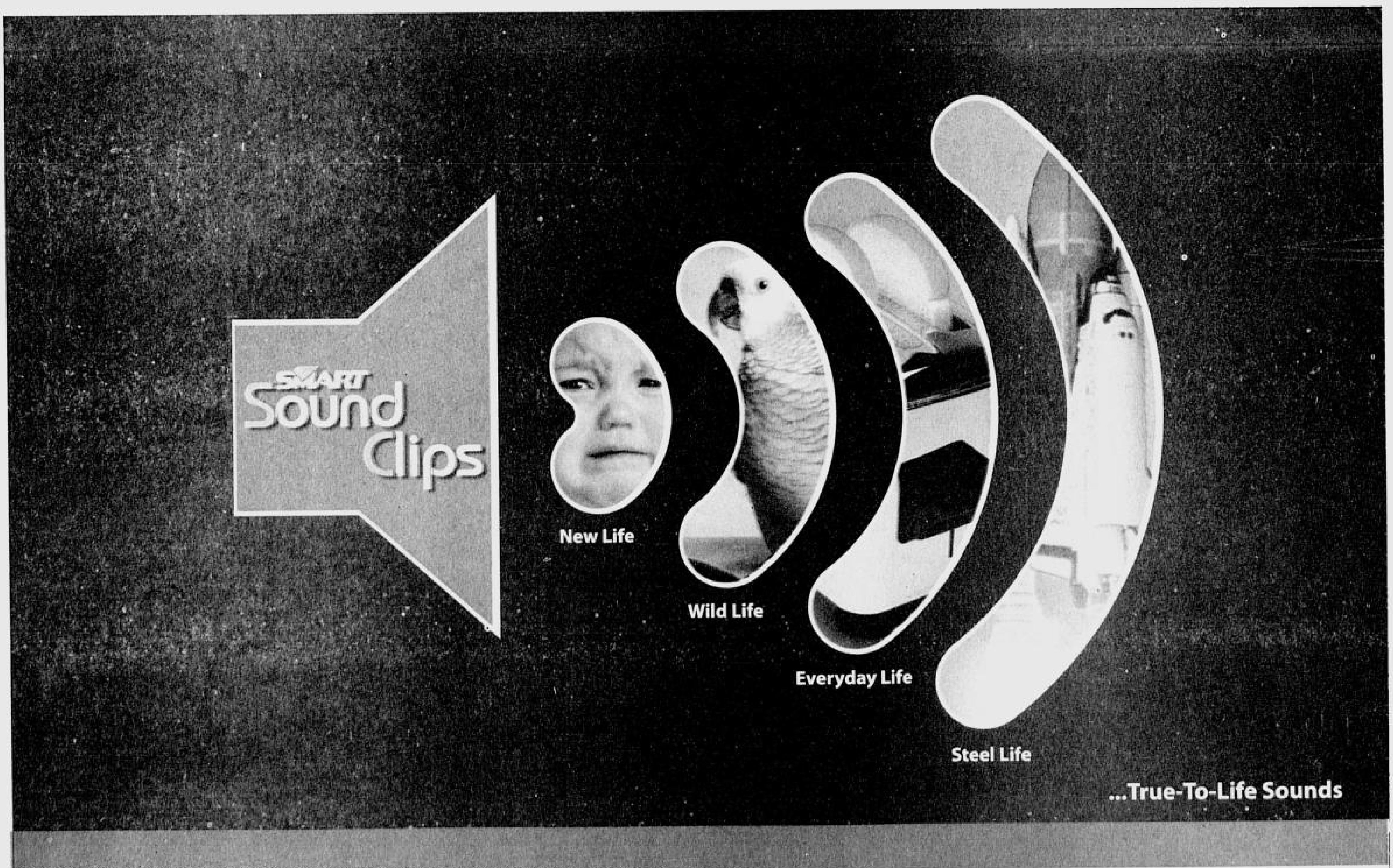
She has tended to empathize with others, whether they have cancer or not. After all, says Rio, there are other forms of cancer that are deadlier than the actual thing.

"There's a cancer of bitterness, a cancer of lust, a cancer of greed," she says. "Mine is not the worst kind. If God gives us good things, he can allow bad things to happen to us as well. In the end, whatever our station in life is, we can always find ways to glorify His name."

These days, only ill health can stop her from reaching out to cancer-stricken patients and their loved ones. In fact, even as her health began to deteriorate again late last year, she insisted on finishing a 20-minute video promoting cancer awareness.

"Whenever we find ourselves alone and overwhelmed with problems," she says, "it's best to start handling them one day at a time. Go down on your knees and pray for enough strength [to make it] just for the day."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



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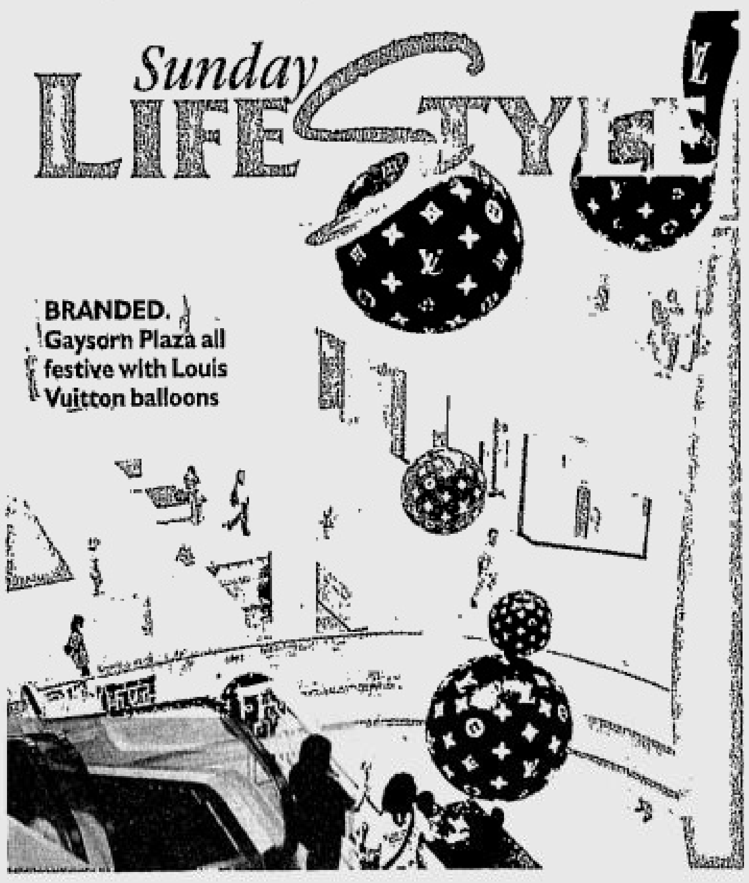
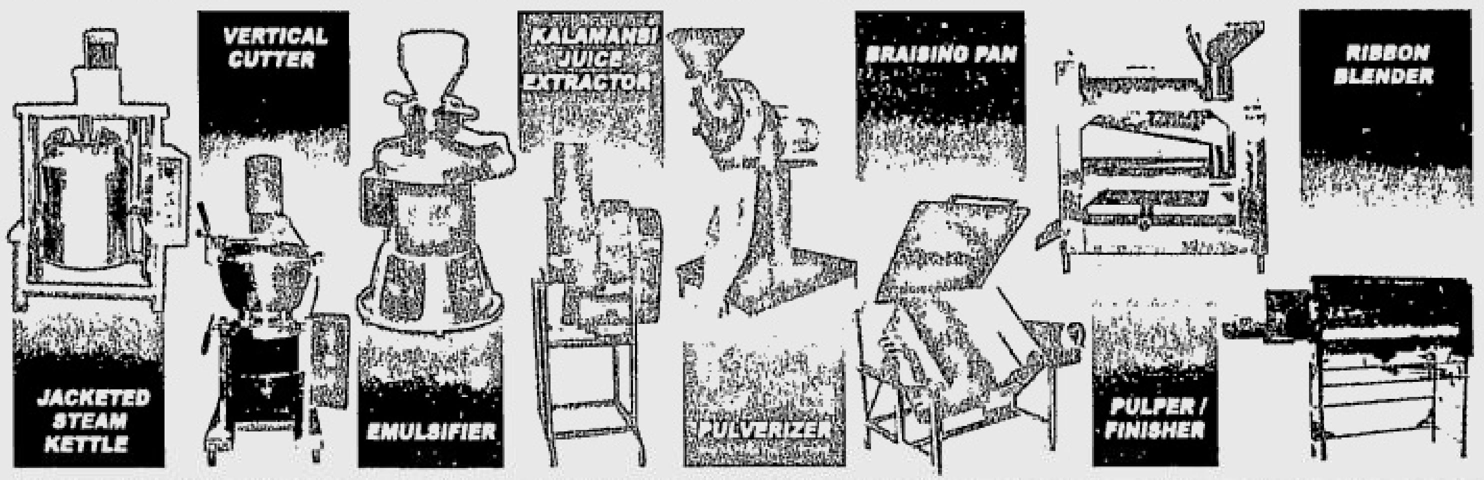


BRANDED. Gaysorn Plaza all festive with Louis Vuitton balloons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Constance does . . . Bangkok

By Constance Pendleton

YES, I am back. I finally broke out of the Betty Ford Center with Muffy's help! (A harrowing story, to be told another time.)

So I am on the lam, so to speak, while playing "Catch Me If You Can" (fabulous movie) with my former editor, who has made it his life's mission to get me back into the Betty Ford Center. Very "Man in the Iron Mask" (hmmm, another Leonardo di Caprio movie—but you get the reference). But enough of movie references!

I have decided to resume my old peripatetic lifestyle and just move from city to city and country to country.

Now I loathe being a tourist, so this is not so much a travelogue as it is a lifestyle check of various cities. I believe one gets to know a city by doing what the hip, happening locals are doing, making friends and hanging out.

The dos and don'ts of shopping in Bangkok and knowing what's Class from what's Crass

I am not counting on universal appeal here. This will appeal to people like me, or—as we used to call them at Bryn Mawr—People Like Us. And there is a big difference between US and THEM.

Bangkok is a fabulous city and one of my favorites in the whole world. If history and tourist attractions are what interest you, DO NOT read on. Buy a Fyodor's guide. This is *my* take on the city, and my take is sometimes shallow and insipid but *always* gloriously fun.

High-low

The defining thing about Bangkok (and be sure to remember this) is that you can do Class and Crass—often within yards of each other.

Bangkok is a real shopper's Mecca. You can buy everything from the highest end (Hermes) to the lowest (Chattuchak) and a whole gamut in between. There is something for every taste and even for those with no taste whatsoever.

To make it easy, I've organized this shopping survivor's manual into dos and don'ts.

DO make sure to always get the seven percent VAT refund. You claim it at the airport. But remember that for things like watches and jewelry you MUST show the items a second time at the claim counter. Or else, no cigar... But then, who packs watches and jewelry into their check-in bags, anyway?

DO go to the Emilio Pucci store at the basement of Gaysorn Plaza on Rajdamri Road. It used to be at the Oriental Hotel arcade until the end of last year.

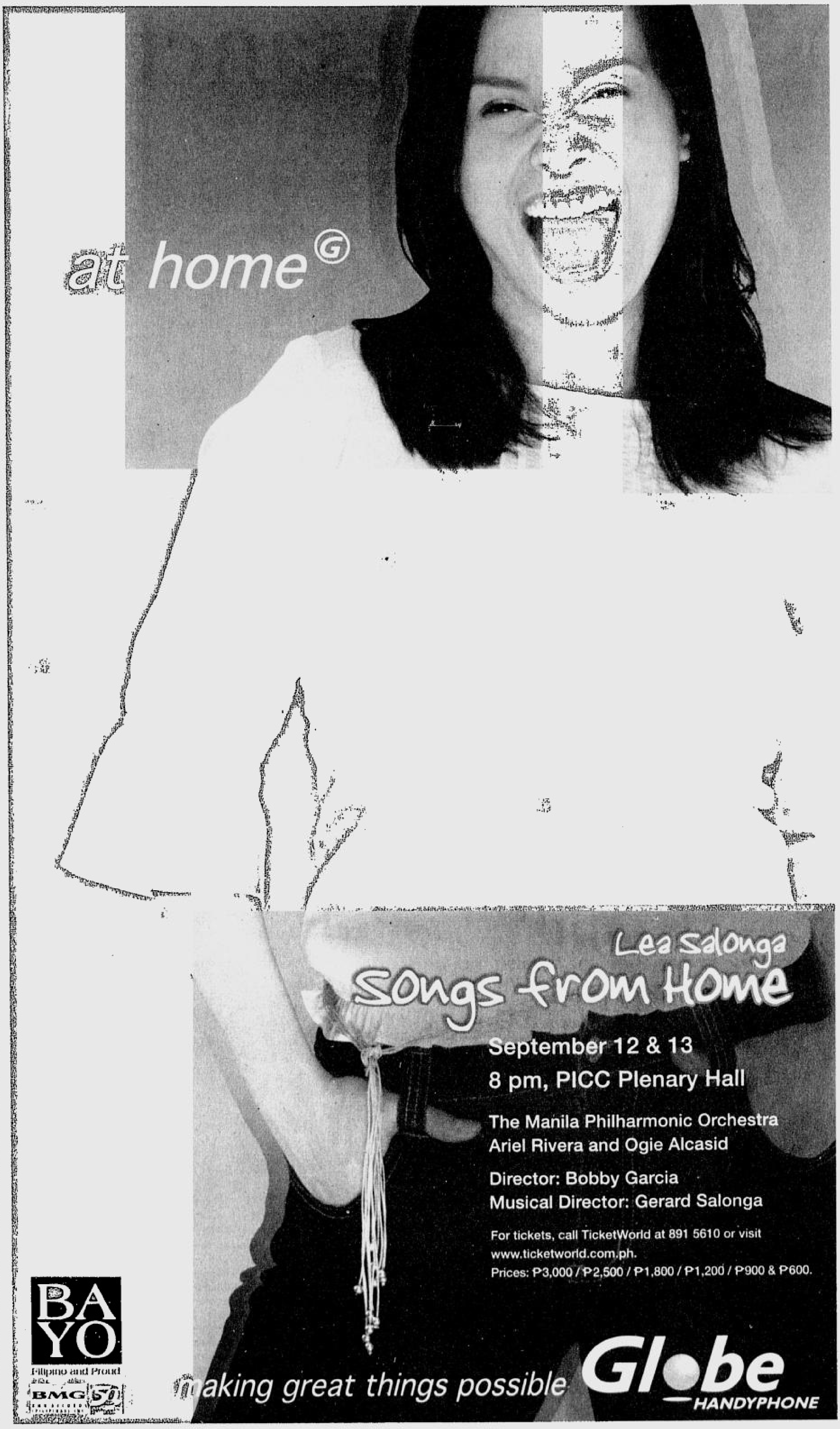
Bangkok is one of the very few cities in the world where one can find a Pucci, even a Pucci shop! Even Hong Kong and Singapore do not have Pucci shops, so Bangkok has a leg up here. In fact, the only other cities I know that have Pucci shops are Florence and New York—and I think Capri during the season, but then I am never sober when I am in Capri, so who knows?

Things to buy: towels, of course, which are so hard to get and so much chic-er than Hermes'; fabulous totes for the beach, must-have clutches, great blouses, and the most wonderful skirts and pants around. All in those glorious Pucci prints.

Pucci has always been iconic and, now that Lacroix has taken over and since LVMH has regained the licenses, is quite simply the best thing going. A visit to this store alone is worth the trip to Bangkok.

A limited men's line that consists mainly of

CONSTANCE/ F4



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Director: Bobby Garcia
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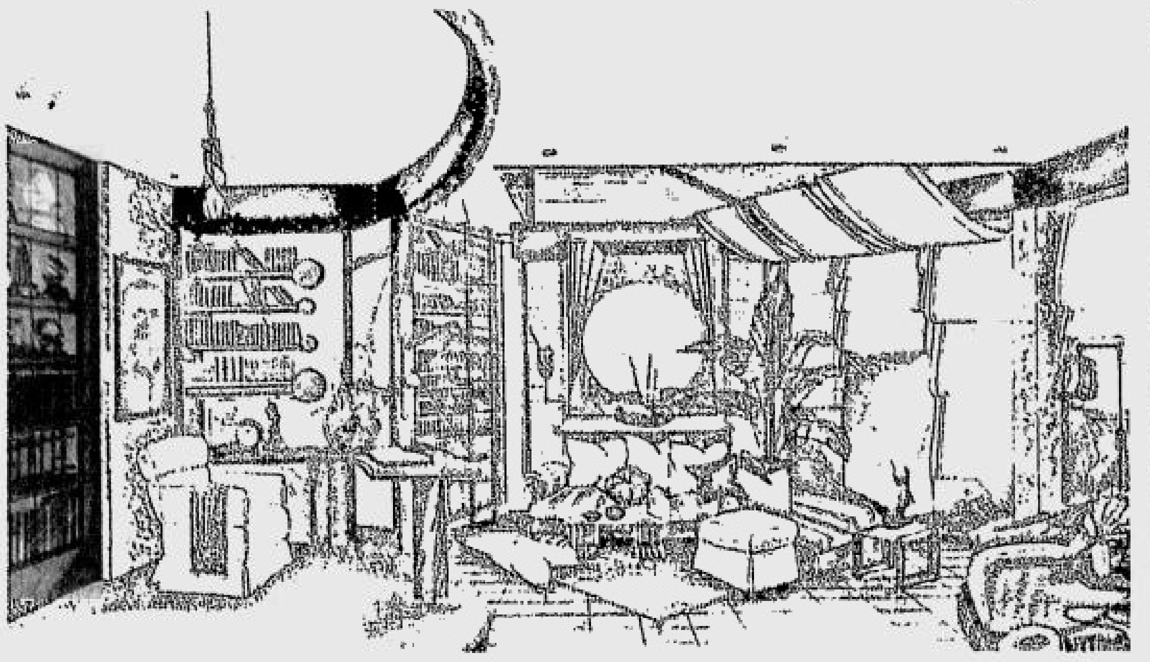
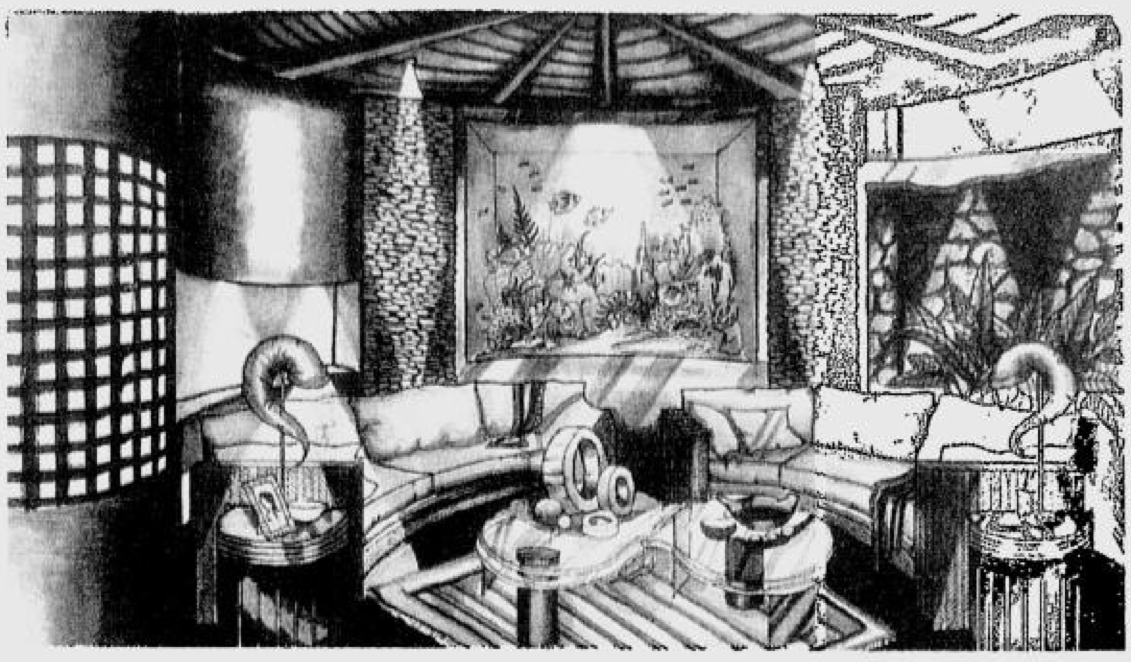


TROPICAL LIVING FOR JUAN FLAVIER
Sergio Borja Jr. designed a cozy reading room for Sen. Juan Flavier. Flavier is known to get up early in the morning to write his famous parables. For this purpose, the study has an access door to the bedroom through multi-purpose cabinets. The ambience, has a relaxed, modern tropical feel to it, courtesy of natural shades of brown, grey, green, beige and hints of red. "I also put a slanted water feature behind the sofa so that when he is sitting, he can free his mind of worries and be relaxed by the sound of the gushing water. Clear floor to ceiling glass window gives a good view of the garden."



NATURAL LIVING FOR NOLI DE CASTRO
Aldrich Tan has developed a "bahay bakasyunan"—a warm, contemporary space with a touch of subtle drama for Sen. Noli de Castro. The receiving area's main attraction is a built-in aquarium, reflective of the Senator's love for nature and the water. Tan uses lots of textures—from geometric lines of the ceiling to treatment of stone walls, wood and flooring. Most of the furniture pieces and accessories are also made from indigenous materials.

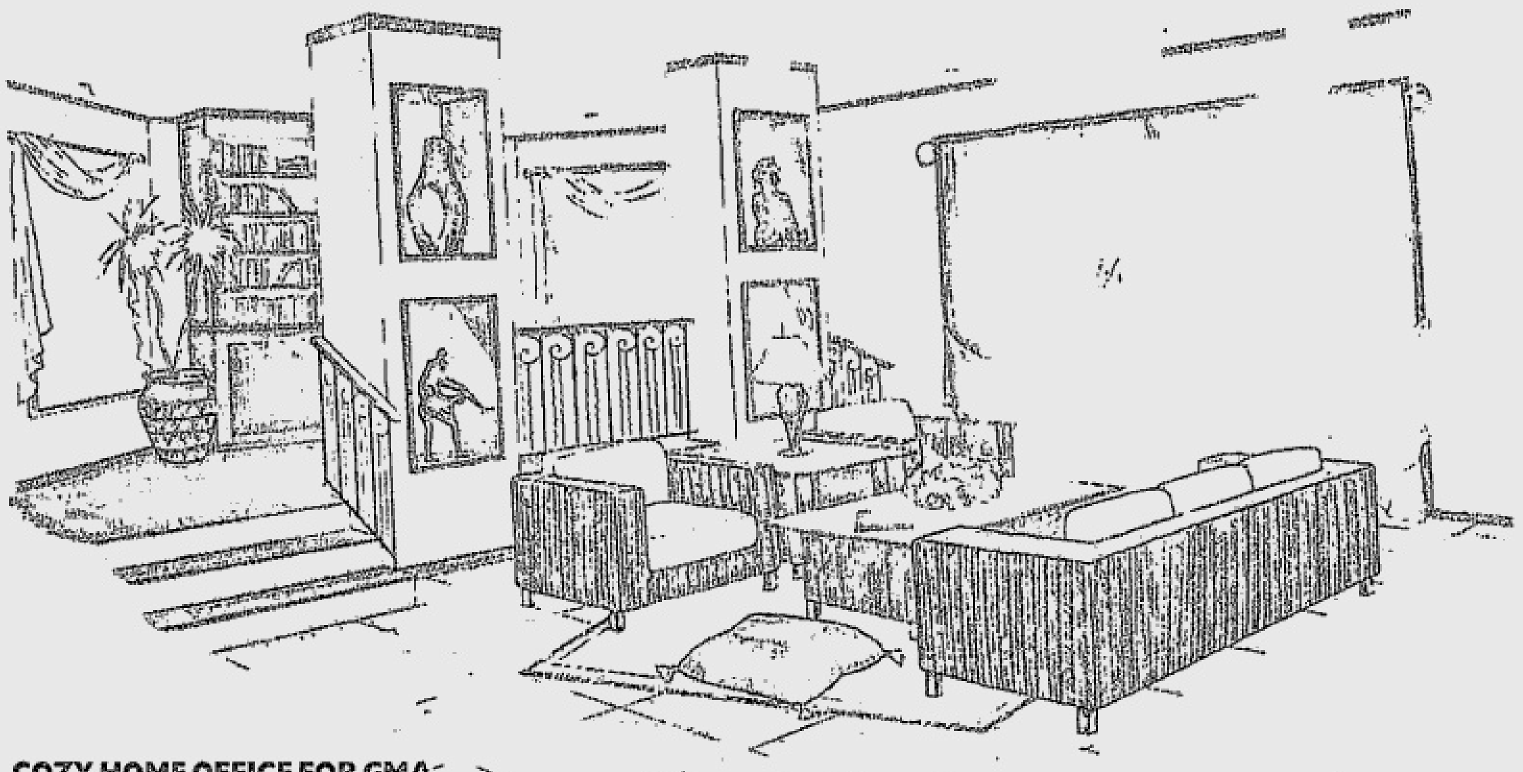
Presidential sanctuaries

Whatever their ratings, the big six have convinced PSID students that they have what it takes to run the country

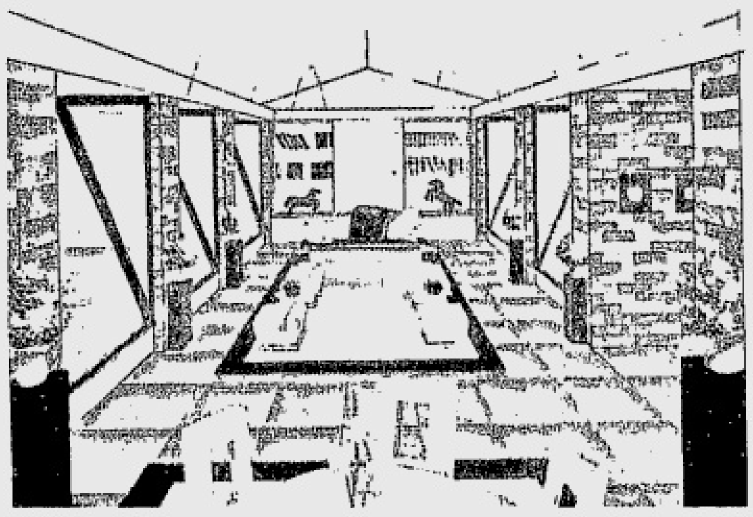
THE GRADUATING students of the Philippine School of Interior Design join the election frenzy as they come up with ideas for beautiful spaces for people who have, as early as now, hinted at going for the top government position of the land.

"The quality and ambience of one's personal space say a lot about the inner self. Confidence, honesty, simplicity, the overall personality—all of these are reflected not only in the way a person dresses, speaks, and carries himself, but also in the very place where he lives," says student Jammy Rojas.

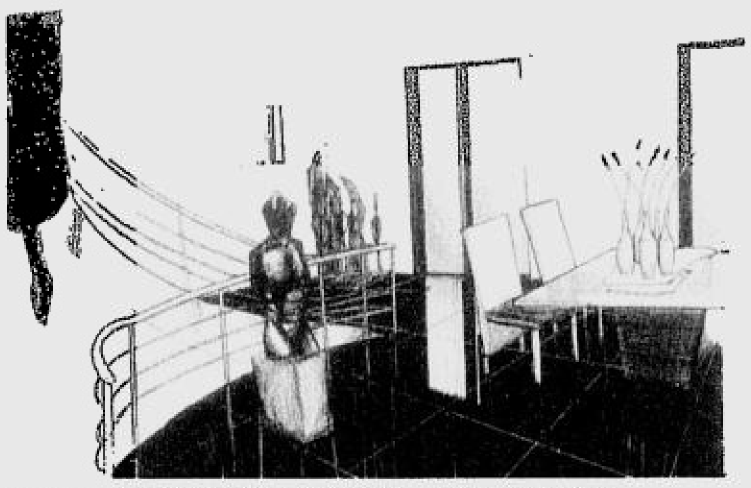
Inspired by the different interesting personalities, the PSID Advanced Class 2003 chose six designs for six presidentiables. The PSID graduating class will further show their mettle in an exhibition of 33 beautiful spaces dubbed as "ISLA" (Interior Spaces for Local Application), slated on Oct. 3-31, at the PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. ISLA is a rendering of interior spaces inspired by 2003 as Philippine Tourism Year and incorporating the cultures, traditions, indigenous materials, flavors and colors of the different regions of the Philippines.



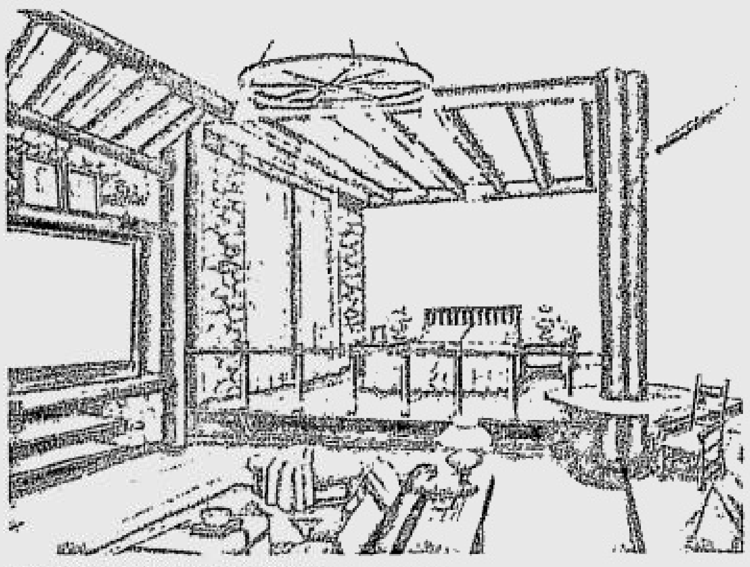
COZY HOME OFFICE FOR GMA
Ed Cabigas designed a home-office for President Macapagal-Arroyo. "The earth colors depict coziness and practicality, which is exactly the personality of the President. The work area is elevated, with some privacy provided by the railings and two vertical structures that serve as pedestal for sculptures from different regions in the Philippines," Cabigas notes. Sitting area has large windows to permit plenty of natural light.



FUSS-FREE OFFICE FOR DANDING COJUANGCO
Jammy Rojas designed a private office that shows no fuss—sleek furniture pieces with clean lines to suggest a modern approach to running businesses; a single black chair in the room to suggest power and authority; bricks and polished concrete tiles to symbolize strong and confident decision-making. Cojuangco's passion for horses and basketball (he's an avid Green Archer) is showcased by expensive horse accents set in the accent color green.



MINIMALIST LOOK FOR SEN. PING LACSON
Paolo Juan Sayo designed a dining room that has minimal decorative effects for the straightfoward senator The restraint and disciplined Bauhaus design suits Lacson's personality. The simple lines and functional furniture in are sans unnecessary frills. The banister and design work of the staircase grills break the monotony of the functional modernity of the room.



MASCULINE BEDROOM FOR FPJ
Fernando Poe Jr. has always been known as "the action star with a heart." PSID student Joy Lao designed a masculine, rustic bedroom that makes use of neutral colors for a cozy feel and as a contrast to dark wood.

SCENEMAKERS

KINDERGARTEN COP GOES ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL
Arnold Schwarzenegger, in the thick of the California Republican gubernatorial race, stops at an elementary school in Fresno, California and seeks to broaden his appeal among constituents whose votes will count a decade or so from now. AP

DR. SEUSS, WE PRESUME
Mike Myers puts on the funny hat that belongs to the cat well-loved by kids all over the world in the film version of "The Cat in the Hat," which opens Nov. 21 in the United States. Dakota Fanning and Spencer Bresling play the kids who gets a visit from the cat. REUTERS

RUN FROM HIM
Whitney Houston enters the courtroom for the appearance of her husband Bobby Brown before a Georgia state court. Brown, arrested for probation violation, was ordered to undergo another drug assessment and sentenced to a total of 14 days AP

UNLIKELY FASHIONISTA
Film star Jackie Chan introduces his own line of active wear, denim and a dressed up sportswear collection at a Las Vegas fashion show. Simply labeled JC Jeans and of washed linen, the clothes are perfect for, shall we say, rush hour? AP

THE ONE
If Mr. Chan is doing fashion, could Jet Li be far behind? Of course not. The hero of the Chinese and Hong Kong screens, movie star Jet Li is the new spokesperson of Chinese fashion house "Seven." Takeshi Kaneshiro does it for Prada and Adrien Brody for Zegna, so why not Mr. Li? REUTERS

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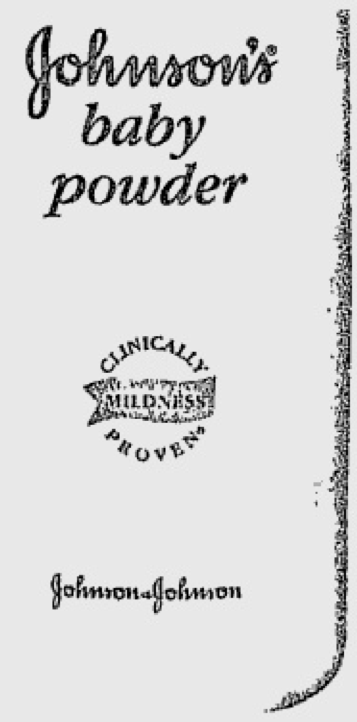
Johnson's
baby
powder
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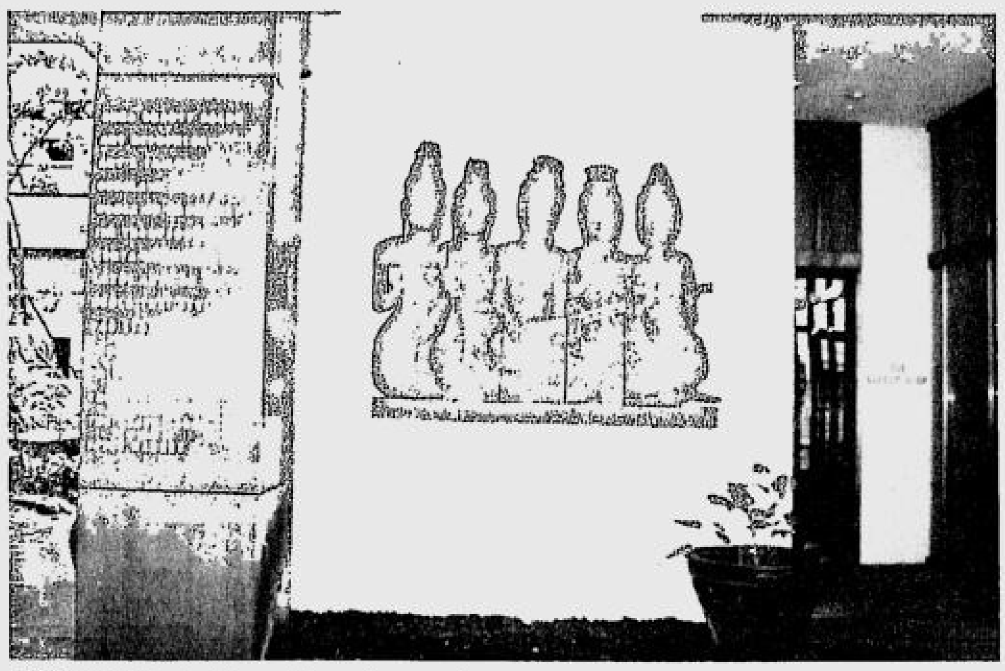
LOT' ARTS DE VIVRE

DO go to Lotus Arts de Vivre at the Regent for the most creative jewelry and accent pieces around.



ENTRANCE to the Regent shopping arcade

Constance's dos and don'ts

From page F1

shirts is available, and only for men absolutely sure of their style and sexuality. Look for the wonderful salespeople Toy and Oy.

This is not a press release and, no, I do not work for Pucci nor do I derive any benefit from them, quite apart from the joy of wearing their clothes, of course!

DO go to the Hermes store at the Emporium shopping complex. Hermes in Bangkok is (at least to my mind) slightly cheaper than elsewhere in Asia, which also means many items are cheaper than in New York but not cheaper than Paris or Megeve, of course. Hermes is my favorite store in the world and needs no further elaboration.

Get their wonderful H sandals in camel and their double H belts with a gold buckle and crimson and camel leather. One can never go wrong with Hermes—particularly at those prices.

DO go to Belle at Gaysorn Plaza. They stock all the hip brands—Marc Jacobs, Cacharel, Diane von Furstenberg, Anna Sui, Anna Molinari, See by Chloe and the soon-to-be-iconic Leonard. The store reminds me a little of our own Wish and a little birdie just told me that Wish will be opening a new store at Gaysorn soon.

DO go to Gaysorn Plaza and the Emporium for the usual global brands—Prada, Gucci, Ferragamo, Chanel, Louis Vuitton. No Etro and Bottega Veneta yet but I hear they are opening soon. And sadly, no YSL.

By the way, Gaysorn becomes Gay central on weekends. But of course.

DO pick up some items from the wonderfully inventive young Thai designers. Many are trained in London, so the sensibility is artisanal, much like Comme des Garçons, Issey Miyake or Yohji Yamamoto.

So refreshing, after all, are those global brands because you can't get the items anywhere else and many make only a few pieces of each style. You definitely will not look like a Prada clone!

The best place to go for these brands is Siam Centre, which is connected to the main BTS (that's the elevated rail) station, although many have branches at the other shopping centers like the Emporium and Gaysorn as well.

Look out for Soda (the best of them all, and their prices reflect that), Tube, Vihayas (at Gaysorn only), Zenith, Theatre, Greyhound, Chaps (not Ralph Lauren—but great men's clothes you can swipe) and Fly Now.

But avoid ANR whose designer, Anurak, I am told, thinks the Philippines is a Third World country (But we are, Blanche!!! Except he can't say that—only we can).

Expect to spend about Baht 1,200-2,000 (about P1,608-2,680) for a top. About Baht 3,000 (P4,020) at Soda and Vihayas. You would pay much more anywhere else, particularly in New York. Sublime pieces at down-to-earth prices? I say, who could ask for anything more?

DON'T buy Thai décor for that Asian Aman minimalist look. That is so five years ago and it has been flogged to death. Why whip a dead horse? Even Aman has moved on to Jackson Hole and Morocco. But that does not mean you should buy the over-the-top Thai look either—that's just tacky.

DO go to Lotus Arts de Vivre for the most creative jewelry and accent pieces around. Sort of an Asian Asprey—a very expensive Asian version of Asprey. But the owners, the Von Buerens, are the most stylish and beautiful people. Too bad Sri got married.

If you simply *must* buy something from this brand that has gained an exclusive following in the West, their velvet slippers are wonderful and a relative steal at Baht 2,500-3,000 (P3,350-4,020).

DON'T go to Chattuchak or Mahbroonkrong (now shortened to MBK for obvious reasons) unless you want to get dizzy from the crowd, unless *tiangge* is your thing (as it is sometimes mine).

DO haggle—a LOT. Get your *sampalok* (tamarind) here. Or, better yet, get a friend to do the haggling for you. Muffy came back looking like she had been through the wringer or the sauna after a few stiff drinks. I have never enjoyed *sampalok* more.

Remember, Bangkok is about shopping, eating, and having sex—gloriously. Sadly, as this is a publication for a general audience, I cannot give you the rundown on the sex part. But, to give you an idea, as the immortal Ms Eartha Kitt (not to be confused with Kitty Go) once sang, "There are men, men, men, and the occasional lover."

If you want that (and you would have to be daft not to), e-mail me at cblpendleton@yahoo.com.uk.

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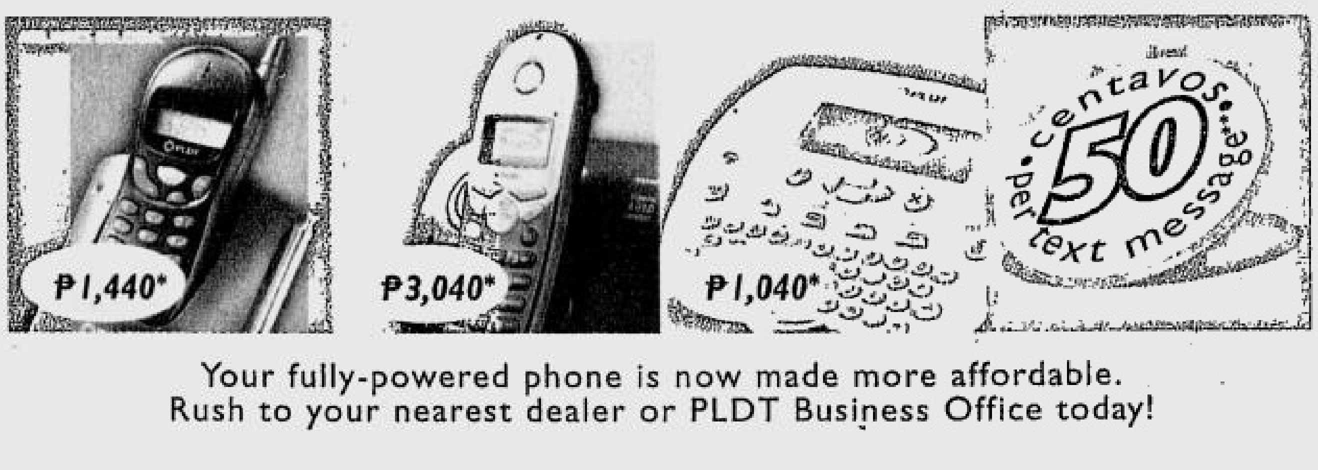

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3257, Series of 2003.

Sunday LifeStyle

'Operation Backpack' now spans an ocean

HELLO KITTY meets her ethnic match and is put to good use by her proud owner.

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

ALL sorts of wonderful things happen, short of miracles, when people reach out across an ocean and religious borders.

After the collapse of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001 and the outbreak of war in Mindanao, 10 middle-school girls at the International School in Makati decided to make a contribution to peace by sending stuff to the kids down in Mindanao.

Project Zambo Kids was born. Cadette Troop 8 of the USA Girl Scouts Overseas-Manila, guided by one of the mothers, troop leader Judy Co, assembled Peace Packs destined for the South. The girls designed a logo and made cloth bags to hold donated items consisting of toiletries such as toothbrushes and toys.

SMALL kid, big backpack in Zamboanga

The project grew and, today, an astonishing number of concerned individuals and organizations here and in the United States are happily involved in trying to make life better for needy children in Muslim Mindanao and Metro Manila.

Karika Bridgers arrived in Manila in 2001. She met Co, who says, "God put us together." The women wanted to do the same thing.

Bridgers had been a girl scout in Alaska and had many contacts all over the US.

While the American Girl Scout network was being activated, the US Special Forces in Okinawa donated $20,000 in medical supplies, baby cribs, a washing machine and dryer.

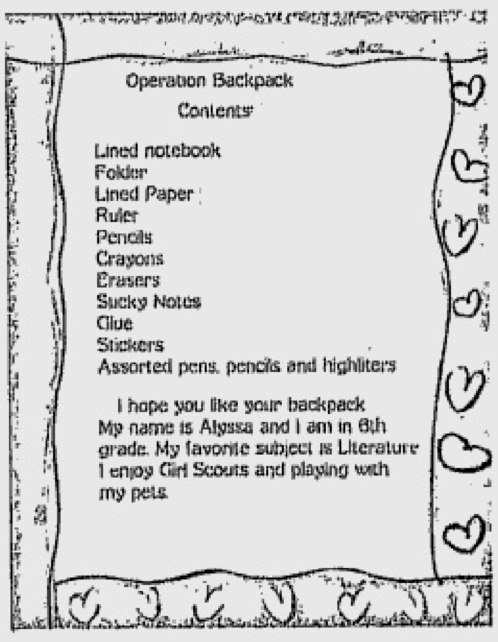
In February 2002, Kay Kizo Hiramine Jr. of the Humanitarian International Services Group (HISG) in Colorado arranged for the free shipment of the items to the Reception and Study Center for Children in Zamboanga City. The center is home to 50 Muslim and Christian orphans, up to age 15, whose parents were killed in the strife in Mindanao.

Giving up Europe for RP

The following month, Allison Guy, 17, a former IS Manila student and a girl scout who had relocated to New Jersey, arrived with goodies for Mindanao, solicited from churches, schools and troops. She gave up a school spring-break trip to Europe to bring the packs here.

Peace Packs from the USA Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in Indiana, Tennessee, Wisconsin and New Jersey, shipped in for free by Federal Express, and Guy's largesse, were brought by

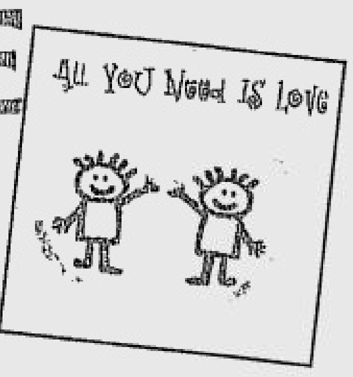
OPERATION/ G2



Operation Backpack
Contents

- Lined notebook
- Folder
- Lined Paper
- Ruler
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Sticky Notes
- Glue
- Stickers
- Assorted pens, pencils and highliters

I hope you like your backpack
My name is Alyssa and I am in 6th grade. My favorite subject is Literature
I enjoy Girl Scouts and playing with my pets.



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Emotion - *Beyoncé Knowles*	EMOTION
If You're Not The One - *Daniel Bedingfield*	IFURNOTD1
Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw - *Regine Velasquez*	KAILANGAN
Hanggang Ngayon - *Regine Velasquez*	HANGGANGAYON
Spaghetti Song - *Sex Bomb Girls*	SPAGETISONG

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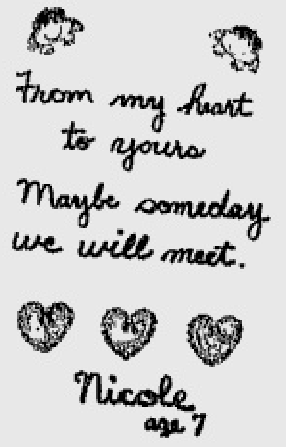
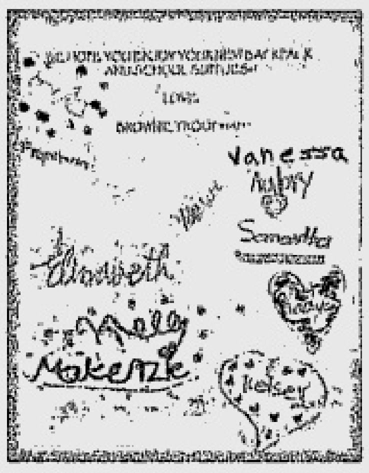
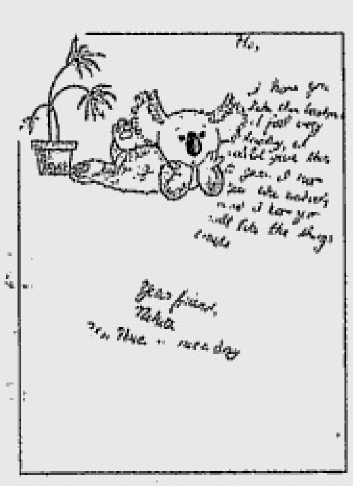




Individuals and organizations here and in the US are trying to make life better for needy children in Muslim Mindanao and Metro Manila



KIDS helping kids. US Girl Scouts-Spanish Traits Council from Southern California, donors of backpacks and school supplies to Peace Packs Project

USA Girl Scouts-Manila International School do their part by assembling AWCP Peace Pac

'Operation Backpack' now spans an ocean

From page G1

Bridgers and Co to Zamboanga on April 10. The event was covered by CNN, BBC, and other foreign and local media organizations.

The sorry plight of Filipino Muslim refugees expelled from Sabah and returned to Mindanao, spurred more groups into action. The Union Church of Manila, the Holy Trinity Church, the youth program of the Santuario de San Antonio, The Little Gym and the American Women's Club of the Philippines' (AWCP) Community Service committee, led by Ellie Cabarrus, joined forces to put together more packs.

Drawing up priority list

Dr. Elias Sana, Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao assistant secretary of health, and Dr. Carolyn Butler, a pediatrician and member of the AWCP, determined what medicines the refugee-returnees would need most. Butler and Kathy Yulo are currently co-chairs of AWCP's Community Service committee.

Bridgers and Co timed the handover of the donations for Hari Raya Puasa, a Muslim holiday celebrated on Dec. 6, 2002. The badly needed medicines, worth $36,000, and the Peace Packs were received by ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin in Zamboanga City.

Beneficiaries were the Tawi-Tawi refugee processing center, 50 children of displaced Armed Forces of the Philippines families, the Jolo provincial hospital and Father Carmelo's wards in Davao City.

Bertilla Regino, regional director of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in Western Mindanao, took charge of distributing packs to children-refugees, street children and fire victims in Zamboanga and Isabela, Basilan.

Wholehearted support

In May, container van-loads of backpacks arrived from the Girl Scouts-Spanish Trails Council in Montclair, California. Sandy Thomas, director of the USA Girl Scouts Overseas in New York, had contacted Lupe Garza of the Spanish Trails, who apparently took to the project with great gusto, judging from the tons of items sent here.

Hiramine, who heads donations at HISG, sent out letters to the organization's supporters who help children all over the world. The nongovernment organization funds a wide range of items from winter coats in Afghanistan to computers in Ecuador.

HISG paid for half the cost of shipping the items to the Philippines, while the AWCP paid for the rest.

Close to 500 backpacks, sent to children and teeners just before school opened in June this year, were loaded with notebooks, pencils, crayons, pens, scissors, chalk and rulers.

"Operation Backpack allows girls to make a difference in the lives of other children," the Spanish Trails Council brochure reads.

Donors included chalk, as they noted teachers in the Philippines often spent their own money to purchase supplies.

Poignant notes from child-donors were tucked into the packs, which elicited loving Thank You notes from their proud new owners, among them Muslim Yakans and Christians studying in harmony at the Sultan Unding Alliance Academy in Basilan.

Beneficiaries were the St. Anthony's and Chosen Children Schools in Cavite; the Gabriel Taborin and St. Anthony's Schools in Davao; and the Assumpta Technical School in San Simon, Pampanga.

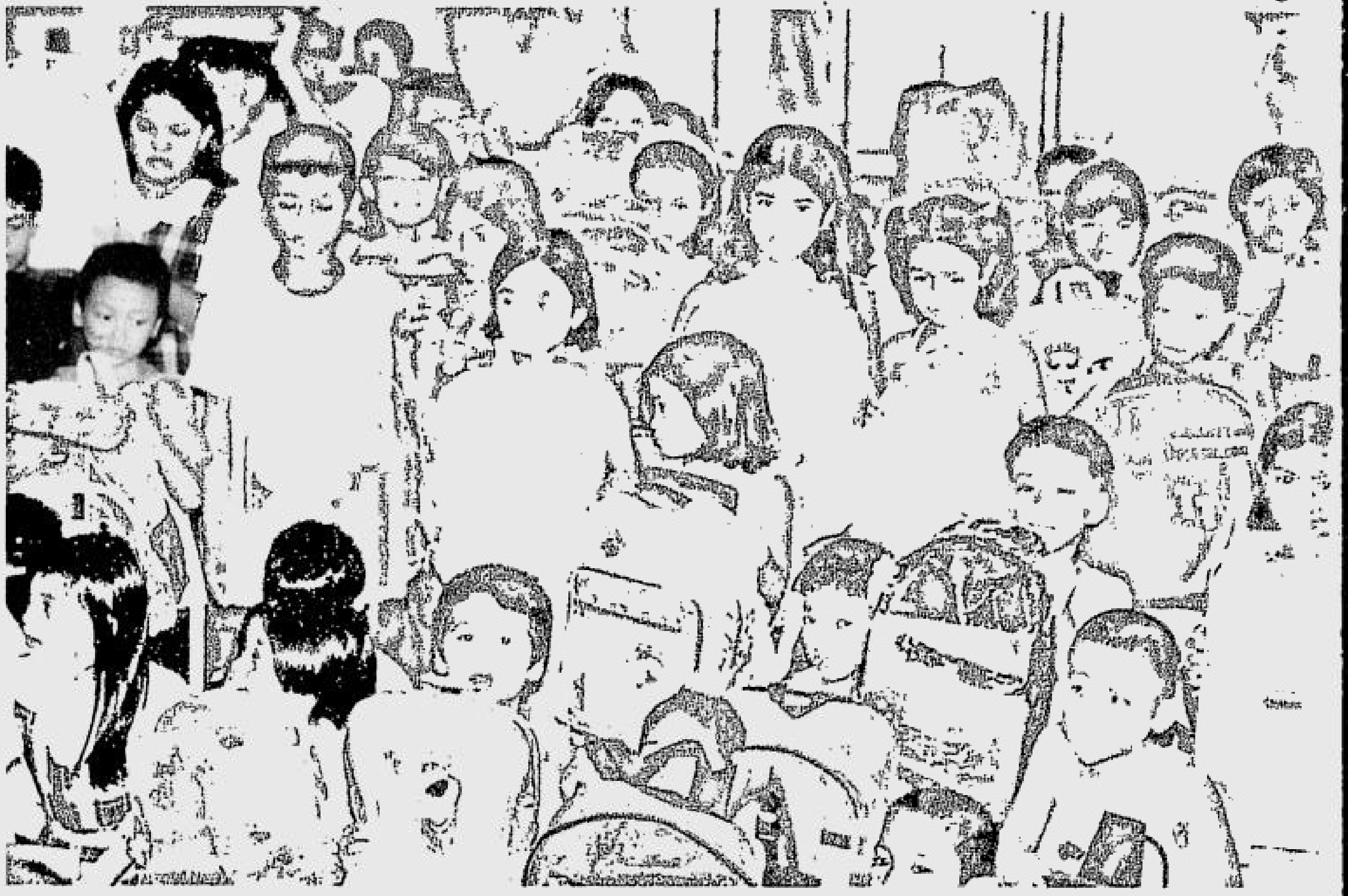
In Metro Manila, beneficiaries were the Erda Technical School, La Concordia, Bukas Palad, some of whose students live under bridges and overpasses, the Makati City public elementary and high schools, and the Give a Life Foundation's young cancer patients at the Philippine General Hospital.

Going the extra mile

The Philippine Navy (PN) wives led by Emilie de Leon went the extra mile for children of enlisted personnel in Zamboanga. The women bought more bags and supplies to add to the donated stuff.

De Leon's husband, Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon, the Navy flag officer-in-command, arranged to have donations ferried on PN ships to thousands of Muslim refugees from Sandakan to Mindanao this time last year.

"They are the lucky ones who will start school with not only full backpacks but also with a precious gift, human dignity," Cabarrus said.



ALL packed and ready to learn. Students of Bukas Palad Elementary School in Makati

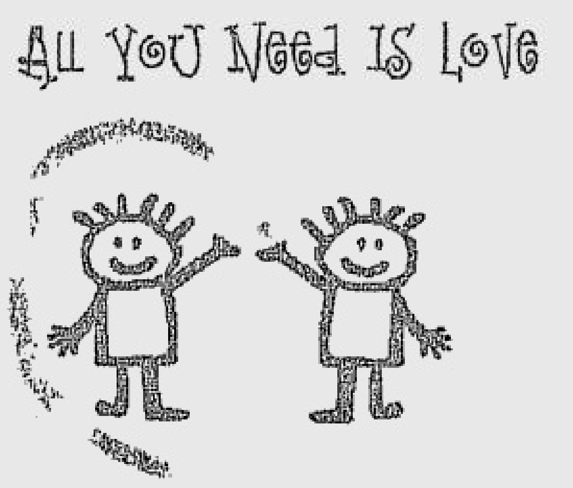
AMERICA'S sweethearts putting their donations in boxes

It was she who got the AWCP involved when she heard of the refugees.

Work is proceeding apace to collect more Peace Packs for Christmas. Ladies at the Women's Correctional Institution in Mandaluyong are sewing up the *kacha* bags, as they did last year, earning a bit of money for their efforts. They themselves were recipients of pencils for their adult-education classes, and toiletries and fruits.

The latest addition to the list of supporters are the Michigan Girl Scouts. New York and Germany Girl Scouts have also registered an interest in coming aboard.

The 10 kids of Cadette Troop 8 in Manila could not have imagined how big their modest project would become. But they seemed to have made the grownups understand their slogan, "All you need is love."

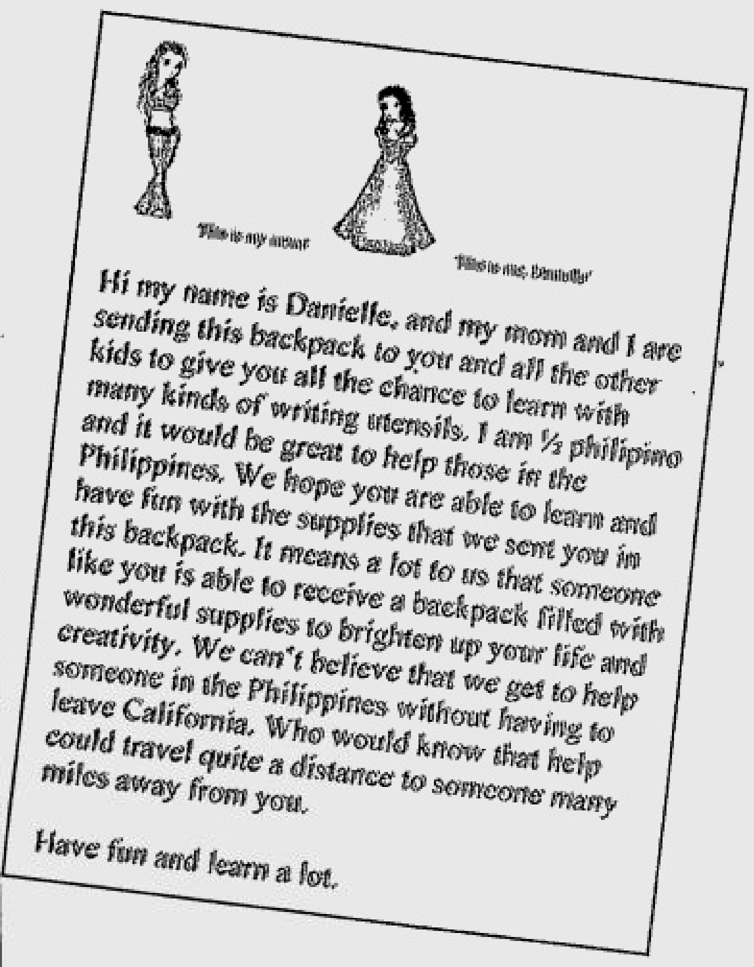

All You Need Is Love

Enjoy —
from Girl Scout
Troop 1166 in
California USA
Kathryn Megan
Katie Lindsay
barbara

PEACE Pack recipients at the Reception and Study Center for children

ARMM Gov. Parouq Hussin and American Women's Club of the Philippines' Karika Bridgers, who hands him a Peace Pack

PRETTY packs all in a row. Students of Assumption Technical School, San Simon, Pampanga show off their new backpacks.



This is my mom

This is me, Danielle

Hi my name is Danielle, and my mom and I are sending this backpack to you and all the other kids to give you all the chance to learn with many kinds of writing utensils. I am ½ philipino and it would be great to help those in the Philippines. We hope you are able to learn and have fun with the supplies that we sent you in this backpack. It means a lot to us that someone like you is able to receive a backpack filled with wonderful supplies to brighten up your life and creativity. We can't believe that we get to help someone in the Philippines without having to leave California. Who would know that help could travel quite a distance to someone many miles away from you.

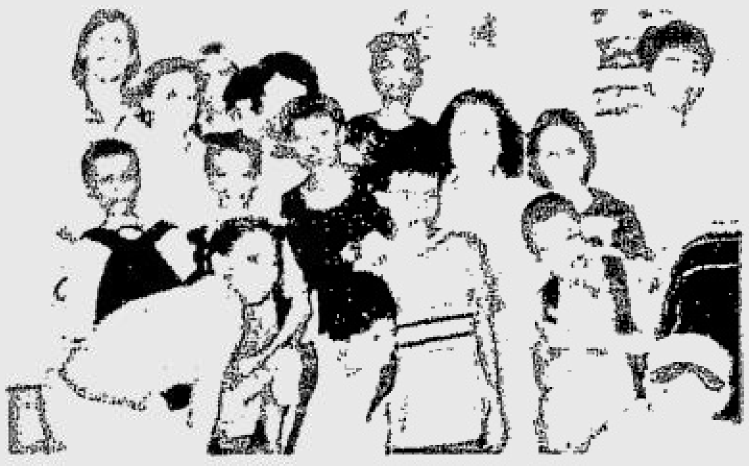
Have fun and learn a lot.

Holiday Peace Packs
AWCP

WHAT'S in each backpack, beside friendship and hopes of peace

BACKPACKERS of the South...

... and the North.



CHILDREN who received Peace Packs at Human Development and Empowerment Services, Zamboanga City

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Orange Slush?

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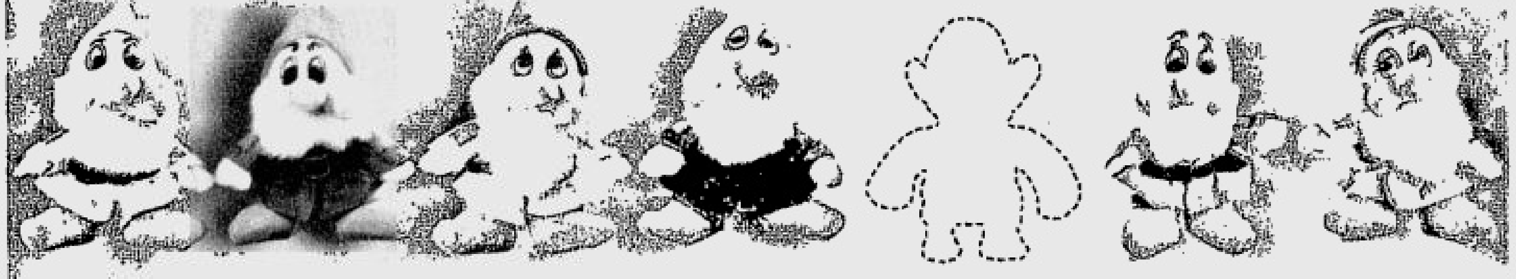
Orange Land and join our fun-filled jungle-survivor adventure!
We have Safari obstacles, face
painting, kiddie salon, art
corner, animal balloons, indoor
games, lots of freebies and
many more!

cast your votes at

Glorietta 2
September [illegible]



Don't let a fever spoil any part of childhood.
Say bye-bye to fever with...
ByeBye-Fever.

ByeBye-FEVER.

Instant relief for your child's fever discomfort

When your child has fever pain, an alternative to medication to bring down his temperature is ByeBye-Fever, a ready-to-use cool patch from the makers of Salonpas. ByeBye-Fever works instantly to absorb and dissipate heat from childhood fever, delivering immediate comfort to your child. Soothing your child's fever pain makes his sleep more restful, so he is able to recover from his fever more easily and with less discomfort.

Pain relief lasts up to 10 hours

The cooling sensation of ByeBye-Fever can be felt as soon as the cold patch is applied. Effective cooling relief lasts up to ten hours. ByeBye-Fever can also be used to assist in the treatment of headache, toothache, and muscle heat.

Convenient, comfortable, and safe to use

ByeBye-Fever is easy to apply you can even teach your child how to do it. Simply peel off the transparent film and apply the adhesive surface to the affected area. Its strong adhesive properties also make it more comfortable than an ice bag or towel, since your child can move around more freely as he rests. ByeBye-Fever has no side effects, and is safe to use with other medications.

Another quality product from the makers of Salonpas
Hisamitsu.

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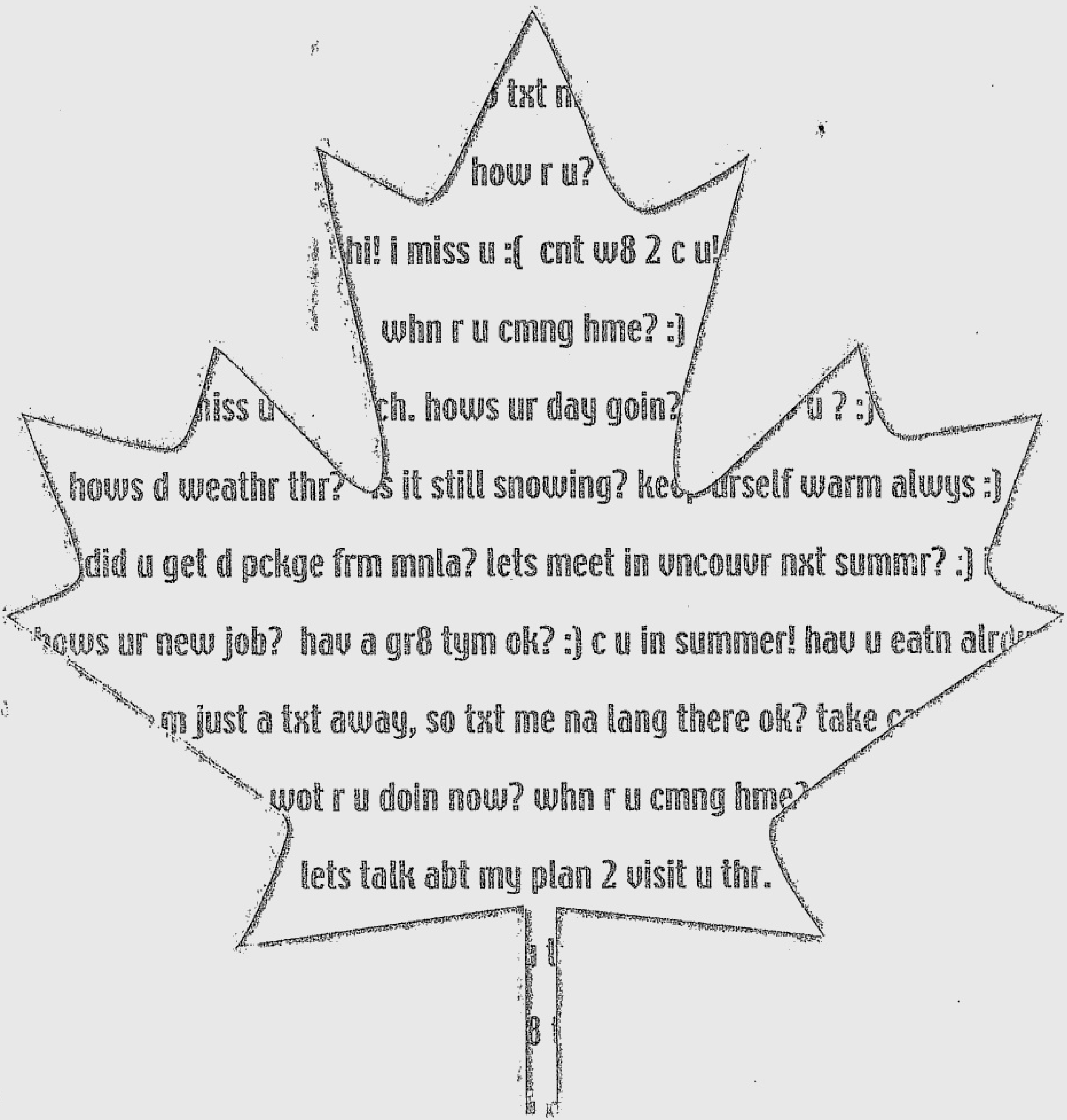
For Instant Cooling Sensation
Soothes Fever Discomfort
ByeBye-FEVER
STRONG ADHESIVE POWER!!
Gentle to the skin
Safe To Use With Medications

new territory


txt m
how r u?
hi! i miss u :(cnt w8 2 c u!
whn r u cmng hme? :)
iss u ch. hows ur day goin? u ? :)
hows d weathr thr? is it still snowing? keep urself warm alwys :)
did u get d pckge frm mnla? lets meet in vncouvr nxt summr? :)
hows ur new job? hav a gr8 tym ok? :) c u in summer! hav u eatn alr
m just a txt away, so txt me na lang there ok? take c
wot r u doin now? whn r u cmng hme?
lets talk abt my plan 2 visit u thr.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

BENCH is Forever designers: Randy Ortiz, Mich Dulce, Jesus Lloren and Patrice Diaz

BEN Chan with the Sea Princess

Forever fashion, forever model wannabe

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

WITH a bare-butt opening number consisting of a dozen or more gorgeous men clinching crumpled jocks with both hands over their truly private parts, the full-to-capacity Bench show last year was the most-talked-about event in local fashion.

This year, **Ben Chan**, the extraordinarily creative genius behind Bench (and Human and Dimensione and Magazine and the list goes on and on), presented a back-to-back fashion show at the Glorietta Activity Center.

First was the Human Show 2003 featuring **Lucky** (though I think he goes by a more serious name now) **Manzano**. It was followed the very next day by the Bench/Red Series Show featuring so many celebrities and personalities.

I was late for the Human show. I had planned to don my Darna costume and sit beside **Ate Vi**—excuse me, Mayor Vi *pala*!

But I had costume block, which is similar to writer's block (I'm sure you all understand). It took me an extra hour to decide that my Darna costume was already overexposed, and so, I used a cream-colored bustier and jeans by **Louie Claparols**.

When I arrived, I blew the usual air kisses to the crowd, then found a great surprise—cotton candy and *taho* counters! The carts epitomized the whole young and fresh target market of Human.

FOREVER/ H2

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The Essential LUTHER VANDROSS
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cubana
Plumb
Beautiful Lumps of Coal
boysdontcry

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To automatically receive one of the featured tones every week, key-in TONE ON (for ringtones) or POLY ON (for polytones) and send to 209.

TOWER RECORDS · VIDEO · BOOKS — Top 25 Albums of the Week — music one

1	**Playlist**	Paolo Santos	keyword: *coffeecup*
2	**A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic**	Various Artists	keyword: *callnanswer* keyword: *lastgoodbye*
3	**Nyoy Volante with Mannos**	Nyoy Volante	keyword: *simplelang*
4	**Michael Bublé**	Michael Bublé	
5	**Bigotilyo**	Parokya Ni Edgar	
6	**Heaven**	Nina	
7	**The Piano Player**	Maksim	keyword: *cubana*
8	**Bling Bling**	Various Artists	keyword: *thejumpoff*
9	**Waking Hour**	Vienna Teng	
10	**Dangerously In Love**	Beyoncé Knowles	
11	**Beautiful Because Love Is**	Various Artists	
12	**Ive Mendes**	Ive Mendes	
13	**Beautiful Lumps Of Coal**	Plumb	keyword: *boysdontcry*
14	**Fantasy 4ever**	F4	
15	**Come Away With Me**	Norah Jones	
16	**Let Me Be The One**	Jimmy Bondoc	
17	**Meteor Garden II**	Original Soundtrack	
18	**Josh Groban**	Josh Groban	
19	**Round 2**	Sexbomb Girls	
20	**Halfway To Paradise**	Jodie Brooke Wilson	keyword: *madne*
21	**Meteor Rain**	F4	
22	**The Art Of Letting Go**	Various Artists	keyword: *stranded*
23	**Break Barriers**	Various Artists	
24	**The Essential**	Luther Vandross	keyword: *ifthis*
25	**In Concert**	Josh Groban	

Other Available Ringtones: Bonnie & Clyde '03 by Beyoncé Knowles (keyword: *bonnie&clyde*)
Jumpin Jumpin Remix by Destiny's Child (keyword: *jumpinremix*)
I Know What You Want by Busta Rhymes (keyword: *whatuwant*)

All ringtone/polytone keywords are available for two weeks only.
All images and ringtones are P15.00 each. All other text messages are P2.50 each.

*Available only for MMS-capable handsets.
For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111 or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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SMART Simply Amazing! MUSIC LINK

MAKEUP maverick team Christian David and Patrick Rosas

CREATIVE, artistic friends Michael Salientes and INQUIRER Elán's Marge Enriquez

CIVIC-ORIENTED "Manay" Gina with husband Speaker Joe de Venecia

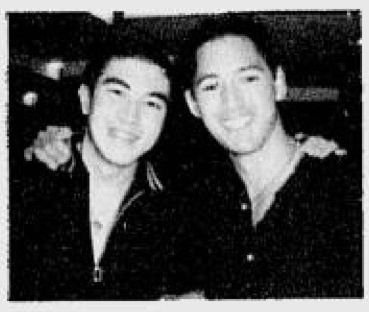
MODEL beauties at Human show, Alta Tan and Gem Padilla

BENCH family. Julie Torres and Nene Lim

BEN'S buddies Manuel Torres and Ver Lim

COOL F4 couple Manu Sandejas and wife Agot Isidro

THAMES' founders Joel Santos and Vivienne Tan



LUCKY boys. Lucky Manzano and hunk Marc Nelson

TWO talented Antons. Anton San Diego and Anton Mendoza

DESIGNER and muse. Joe Salazar and Lucy Torres

PROUD mom Emily Lopez and proud sister Carissa Cruz

Forever fashion, forever model wannabe

From page H1

Too bad, **KC Concepcion**, the female counterpart of Lucky, was not present.

KC had started college in Paris. Before she left, she came to my house to do an episode of "KC in the House" for MTV.

My son, **Bryan**, was smitten, but of course, didn't admit it. What am I supposed to conclude when he quickly made his photo with KC his computer's wallpaper? At least I know my son has excellent taste.

So Lucky

But I apologize for veering off course. Back to Lucky, who once again was getting his 15 minutes and more of fame. This guy was raised like a true professional and a gentleman. He was early for the show and was totally game for the director's wishes. Considering he's so young, he might surely get to be as popular as his parents, **Edu Manzano** and Vilma Santos.

It is such a coincidence that both the signature models of Human are kids of famous show biz actors and actresses. All this makes me feel old, or should I say, in-Human, since both their parents are of my generation. In fact, Lucky could be part of a Pinoy version of the movie "American Pie" and I could play Stiffler's mom!

With a 24-hour headstart on the next event, **Patrice Ramos-Diaz** once again saved the day by providing my outfit for the Red Series show.

Though I detest black, the beautifully cut gown had beads, lace and feathers, making it a standout. By the time I was done with the outfit, it took me another 20 minutes to do my hair, which I adorned with ostrich feathers given to me by Ben from one of his trips to Shanghai.

My apologies to the people behind me who only saw half the show because of my ostrich feathers. I sat beside **Julie Torres**, the lovely mother of **Lucy**. Those stunning looks have to come from somewhere, and now I know where. Ms T is perfect for those guess-your-age ads.

The mall was packed even to the very innards of the center atrium. Half the crowd was there to get a glimpse of their favorite show biz personalities, and the other half was there to see some skin. I was there to check out the clothes by the guest designers, **Mich Dulce**, **Randy Ortiz**, **Patrice Diaz** and **Jesus Lloren**. I've always been a strong supporter of local designers, so I was excited to see which ones I could use for my next event. Unfortunately, the gowns all look so much better on the long-legged models. I guess God is fair and made me petite to match my overpowering character. But when science becomes capable of adding height, watch out, world, because model-version and tall Sea Princess will vie for Miss Universe!

> With his Human and Bench is Forever double show, Ben Chan, who brought in the Shanghai press to Manila, is set to conquer the world

Reminiscing, I remembered how I used to model, too. Of course, that was the kids line of Rustan's! I also once modeled for **Pitoy Moreno** as flower girl in Malacañang for the Marcoses. I was cuter then and had the ideal height. Those two little events were the start and end of my modeling career.

I shall return in my next life with a vengeance. I might return as a giraffe, though, so I should be grateful for my other assets like being funny, friendly and a riot. And since beauty is in the eye of the beholder, I shall add "beauty" to the list.

The show was spectacular. Each of the designers did their rendition of the denim, red scheme with individual looks. Patrice opened the show with romantic undertones of the free, Bohemian look and ended up dressing **Alessandra de Rossi** wearing a bra with incidental lace, a tasseled skirt and cropped top. I mentioned to Ben that her older sister had more audience impact (ahem, larger boobs), but he quickly said she has potential and will reach stardom, too. I wonder if he means with the help of Dr. **Vicky Belo**.

Mich Dulce's multi-layering, volume skirts and tops were shown through a choreographed deconstructive dance in tune to techno music. Avant-garde Mich had her name printed on tattered tees inter-layered, a look for which she is known. We both have a strong belief in "more is better!" Her pieces, though, are a problem to store. My poor husband's closet space is diminishing by the minute.

SHANGHAI invasion. Various journalists from Shanghai checking out the local scene

One of her celebrity models was cutie **John Pratts**, who I saw also later that evening at the Thames Masquerade Ball at the NBC Tent.

Edwardian

The "Edwardian" look was Jojie Lloren's take-off point. I met this very talented, meek designer three years ago when he made my sister **Sandy's** wedding gown. At that time, he had just won the Concours International Des Jeunes Createurs de Mode (including design lessons in Paris) which garnered him instantaneous stature and access to the big-league designers. And rightly so, because Jojie has an eye for structured detailing. In other words, his clothes do not only look great but have excellent fit.

The show's finale were the Castillian-themed designs of Randy Ortiz. Show biz royal couple **Richard Gomez** and Lucy Torres with their little angel (complete with her white wings and halo), **Julianna**, were the showstoppers of the evening. When I asked Lucy what Julianna thought about her first modeling stint, she quickly replied, "Again!" Now we know who our next supermodel will be.

Lucy reminded me of **Catherine Zeta-Jones** in the movie "Zorro," though Lucy has even finer features. When I grow up, I want to be just like her. I have already asked **Patrick Rosas**, who created her flawless look, to transform me into a Spanish beauty in my next affair and Randy Ortiz to provide me layers of flattering ruffles.

With his "Bench is Forever" campaign, Ben has combined the social and show biz worlds and transcended time barriers. A sample of this is my aunt, **Mary Prieto**, together in Bench clothes with **Shaina Magdayao**. But the coolest combination was abs-to-die-for **Diether Ocampo** with **Ryan Cayabyab**.

But I was disappointed not to see the abs of Ryan.

Although evidently featuring much less skin than last year, the Bench show was still the talk of the town. Ben invited selected guests to dinner at Pepato, together with 20 or so Shanghai reporters, who flew in for the show.

He wanted to show them the Bench market and the local scene. I delivered a short speech to Ben and **Keren Pascual** translated in Chinese, though I'm sure he did the short-hand version.

There are so many things that could be said about Ben, but what tops my list is that here is a Filipino who has made us all proud at a time when our whole country is whirling downward. He has brought four Bench stores to China and recently opened a specialty store called Magazine featuring Filipino products. If we could only have millions more of visionary businessmen like Ben!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

SHOW biz royal family Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres and their cute angel, Julianna

COTTON candy, anyone? Nay-nay Ventura, Angellette Calero, Bench man, Jojo Liamson and Leah Puyat

MTV Live. KC Conception with Sea Princess

ENERGETIC Ogie Alcasid

SMITTEN. Bryan Prieto

FASHION visionary Ben Chan with image models Richard Gomez and Diether Ocampo

DESIGNER'S mom Yrna Ileto with Roi Philips

MASQUERADE BALL. IO's Edwin Reyes, Maricar Lim, and feathered friends Sea Princess and Tim Yap

MISS Manners Mary H. Prieto with daughter Marylou and grandchild Mackie Loving

FIRST-TIME model Celine Lopez

FIRST-RATE director Ariel Lozada

BALL guests Theresa Leung and Gloria and Jimmy Santos

Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf
welcomes
Dr. Richard R. Lytle

WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS OF DEAF CHILDREN
Dr. Richard R. Lytle, chair at the Department of Education, Gallaudet University, Washington DC, was invited by the Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf to facilitate a series of workshops: SAID Faculty Teacher Training Course, July 28-30, at Tagaytay City, and Keys to Making Mainstreaming Work for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children and Starting with the End in Mind for Educators and Parents, held at the PSSC last July 31. Shown in photo is Dr. Lytle with the high school students of SAID.

RP to mark 4th Korean War Memorial Day

THE PHILIPPINES will commemorate the 4th Korean War Veterans of the Philippines Memorial Day today with simple rites to be attended by surviving members of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok).

The rites will coincide with the 30th annual convention of the Peftok Veterans Association Inc. (PVAI) at Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. Members of the five battalion combat teams that comprised Peftok are expected.

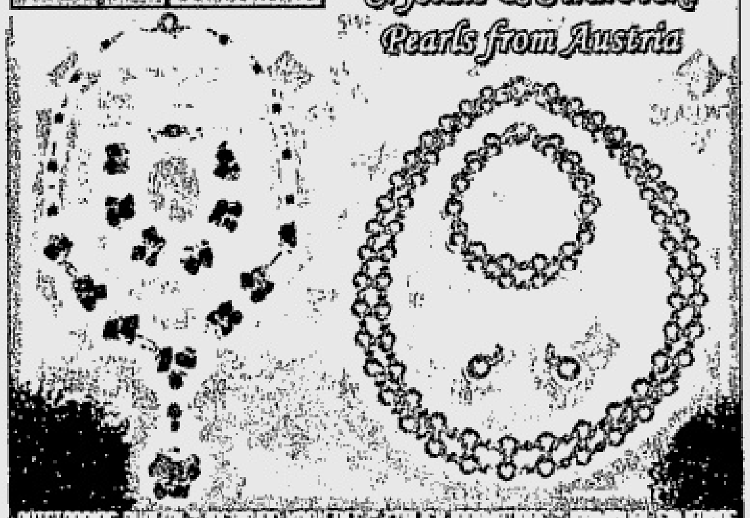
AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia will be the guest of honor. South Korean Minister and Consul General Cho Hee-Yong will deliver brief remarks.

PVAI president Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro, PA (Ret), said less than 3,000 Korean War veterans, all of whom were over 70 years old, were still alive.

The Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950. On Sept. 7, 1950, the Congress enacted the Philippine Military Aid to the UN Act that allowed the sending of a Filipino expeditionary force to South Korea. The Philippines was one of 16 United Nations members that sent combat troops. The war ended in a stalemate on July 27, 1953.

In 2000, the Philippines declared Sept. 7 "Korean War Veterans Day."

For more information, visit Peftok's website at www.geocities.com/peftok.



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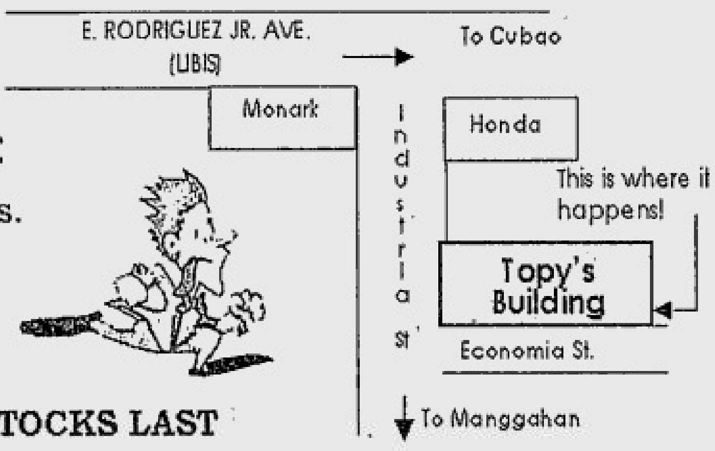

Diplomang inaasam, maaari nang makamtan sa
Wish upon EQ
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Plus ₱50,000 cash allowance!

1. Isulat sa papel ang pangalan, birthday at edad ni baby, pangalan, kaarawan at edad ng magulang/guardian, address, telephone/cellphone number at signature. Ilagay ito sa white legal size envelope kasama ng sumusunod na empty packs ng EQ Regular o EQ Dry Diapers:

1 entry = 1 EQ Big Pack wrapper, or
= 1 EQ Budget Pack wrapper (12s), or
= 2 EQ Mini pack wrappers (4s), or
= 4 EQ Singles Packs, or
= 1 EQ Dry Jumbo Pack wrapper
= 1 EQ Dry Econo Pack wrapper, or
= 1 EQ Dry Travel Pack wrapper, or
= 2 EQ Dry Mini pack wrappers (4s)

2. Ihulog ang entries sa mga drop boxes na matatagpuan sa piling Philam offices/branches, supermarkets at groceries nationwide.
3. Maaari ding ipadala ang entries sa:

"Wish Upon EQ"
LAM-AN Center, No. 72 2nd St.,
bet. 8th & 9th Avenue, Grace Park, Kalookan City
OR
"Wish Upon EQ"
P.O. Box 525 Kalookan City

4. Ang deadline ng submission of entries at ang draw dates ay:

	DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES	DRAW DATE
1st Monthly Draw	Sept. 27, 2003	Oct 11, 2003
2nd Monthly Draw	Oct. 25, 2003	Nov 8, 2003
Grand Draw	Dec. 6, 2003	Dec 20, 2003

5. May limang (5) participating areas: NCR (including Rizal), North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao
6. Ang monthly draws para sa NCR, North Luzon at South Luzon ay gagawin sa Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., LAM-AN Center, 72 2nd St., between 8th & 9th Ave., Grace Park, Kalookan City. Ang draws para sa Visayas ay gagawin sa Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., Cebu Office, Mandaue North Central, M.L. Quezon Ave., Cabangcalan, Mandaue, Cebu City. Ang draws para sa Mindanao ay gagawin sa Kennex Logistics Phils., Inc. WHS 2-3 Kevin Warehouse Compound, Bayabas, Kauswagan, Cagayan De Oro City
7. Ang Grand Draw para sa NCR, North Luzon at South Luzon ay gagawin sa Philam Tower Lobby, Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Ang Grand Draw para sa Visayas ay gagawin pa rin sa Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., Cebu office at ang Mindanao Grand Draw ay gagawin pa rin sa Kennex Logistics Phils., Inc. (Cagayan De Oro office)
8. Ang mga premyong maaaring mapanalunan ay ang sumusunod:
Para sa Monthly Draws:
Dalawang (2) winners ng Php 50,000 Cash sa bawat area
Para sa Grand Draw:
Dalawang (2) winners ng Philam Plans 4-year College Gold Education Plan with Total Education Benefit and Graduation Gift to be received worth Php 800,000 each sa bawat area
9. All prizes are tax free
10. Isang beses lang maaaring manalo sa bawat draw sa buong promo duration. Ang mga hindi nanalong entry sa bawat draw ay kasama/valid pa rin sa mga susunod na draw.
11. Philam Plans 4-Year College Gold Education Plans are transferable BUT not convertible to cash.
12. Winners will be notified through print ads and registered mail. They may claim their prize within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited with prior approval from DTI
13. Winners of Philam Plans Gold Education Plans will receive their prize as 4-Year College Education Plan Policy upon presentation of notification letter from Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., along with 2 valid IDs (Company ID, Driver's License, Passport, GSIS/SSS Card, Voter's ID). Ito ay maaaring i-claim sa pinakamalapit na Philam Plans office. Ang cash prize ay dapat i-claim sa Unitrade Merchandise, Inc. (LAM-AN Center, 72 2nd St. between 8th & 9th Ave., Grace Park, Kalookan City) upon presentation of Winners' Notification Letter from Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., and 2 valid IDs.
14. Employees of Unitrade Merchandise, Inc./East Valley Enterprises, Inc./Philam Plans, their advertising and PR agencies, suppliers, sub-distributors and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
15. Promo period is from September 1 to December 6, 2003.

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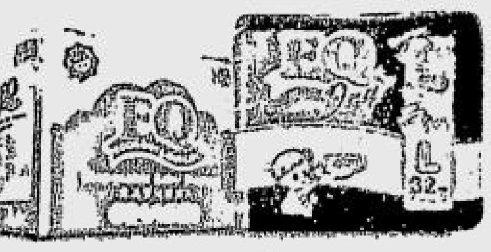
PHILAM PLANS



Di kailangang mahal ang pagmamahal

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3418, Series of 2003

Swiss celebrates with international buffet

SWISS Ambassador Lise Favre

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

AS SOON as the elevator doors opened at the 33rd floor of the Taipan Tower Club, one Latin ambassador asked whether we had heard that **Gringo** was in Magallanes.

At the reception marking the Swiss National Day, the general topic of conversation was whether the other shoe was now falling after Oakwood. Even genial Swiss Ambassador **Lise Favre** mentioned the rumors in her speech.

But the rumors were not enough to dampen everyone's enjoyment of the marvelous buffet which included Chinese *siomai*, Japanese sushi and European cheese and sausages. If the sky was falling, why not have your pleasures while you can?

The other topic of conversation was, of course, President Macapagal-Arroyo's ill-advised reference to lawyer **Ricardo Romulo**'s choice of clients. Some said he should resign while others cautioned that the President was under a lot of pressure and we all had to rally around the flag. What a night!

Seen enjoying the food and drinks was artist **Manuel Baldemor**, who has generously donated an oil painting for an auction during the Ramon Valera Retrospective at the National Museum yesterday. It will also be used for the poster of the first ever Filipino Heritage Festival.

Belgian Ambassador **Christiaan** and Mme. **Gul Tanghe** were all praises for Cebu where they celebrated their own National Day. Also there were **Jenny Wallum** of Eva Foundation, which has opened a school for Aetas in Pampanga, Dr. **Elisa Baja**, with interesting theories on yonis (look it up) and balances, all very Jungian.

We saw **Joey Rufino**, beleaguered Central Bank Gov. **Paeng Buenaventura**, who must be ruing the day he accepted the job, and INQUIRER chair **Marixi Prieto** in a huddle; European Union Ambassador **Jan** and Mme. **Linda de Kok**, **Wash Sycip**, **Nena** and **Freddie Borromeo**, **Al** and **Nena Casimiro**, United States Ambassador **Francis** and Dr. **Marie Ricciardone**, and outgoing Canadian Ambassador **Robert** and **Marilyn Collette**. (Turned out all the talks were nothing more than the usual destabilizing rumors courtesy of the usual "patriots.")

* * *

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) Philippine Chapter hosted a welcome reception for executive director Dr. **Noeleen Heyzer**. Unifem funds programs to help improve the living standards of women in developing countries and to address their needs. The Philippine committee, chaired by **Olga Martel**, is the fourth largest contributor to the fund.

* * *

The Catholic Women's Club will hold its annual dinner dance on Sept. 26 at the Mandarin Oriental, with **Helen Ong** as chair and **Naty Pappas** as co-chair. This year's theme is the musical "Miss Saigon." Question: Do the ladies know that the show is about bar girls during the Vietnam War?

* * *

You all have to admit United Kingdom Ambassador **Paul Dimond** is certainly a good sport. To the delight of his guests at the Brits & Brands: The Best of British Retail fashion show held at his residence, H.E. himself walked down the ramp like a veteran, eliciting gasps and resounding cheers.

Arranged by Rustan's, Ambassador **Benny Tantoco** was pleased as punch over his grandson's, **Anton Huang**, project.

Featured clothes from Dunhill, Burberry, Marks & Spencer, Top Shop and Top Man were easy to wear, comfortable and elegantly simple.

KUWAIT Ambassador Ibrahim Al Muhanna, Monsignor Antonio Franco and Iran Ambassador Gholamreza Yousefi

CANADIAN Ambassador Robert and Marilyn Collette

DR. Jaime Laya, Paz Yuchengco, Ramon Sy of Metrobank and Argentinian Ambassador Mario Schuff

INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and Ambassador Romulo

BRITISH Ambassador and Mme. Paul Dimond

FRENCH Ambassador Renee Veyret and Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Ramirez

BRUNEI Ambassador Maimunah Dato

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone

They used to be out there. Now, they're here.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2944, Series of 2003.

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NEWLYWEDS Jerry and Chichi Villarante (*née* Pelayo)

VILLARANTE-PELAYO NUPTIALS

So it's him

He was a quiet man who completely ignored me when we first met. Who'd have thought we'd end up as bride and groom?

By Chichi Pelayo-Villarante
Contributor

IT was in 1996 when my best friend introduced me to Jerry Villarante, then still studying for his medical degree at the University of Santo Tomas, while I was already working as an interior designer at a furniture store.

He was a quiet, intelligent-looking man. And he completely ignored me (sigh). But then again, he was not my type, so why bother?

As if by serendipity, our paths crossed again three years later through a chance phone call that I made. I had heard beforehand that he did not want to join the birthday celebration of my best friend—because I was there!

"*Ayoko kasama 'yan si* Chichi, *masyado 'yan sosyal at maarte,*" or so he said. What's a girl to do but call the guy and demand an explanation?

That phone call turned to be the start of something beautiful. We began going out, fell in love, and after four years of nurturing the love for each other that God blessed us with, Jerry finally proposed. My life's dream about to be fulfilled!

So there I was, engaged to marry Dr. Jerry Villarante. I should have been ecstatic, euphoric, excited... but in fact I was also a bit worried. Jerry and I had agreed that whatever we would spend for our big day should come from our wallets and not from our parents.

That meant we had to cut down on our fine-dining dates and settle for happy meals and combo packs. We would think twice before spending on a movie. Instead, we'd just cook tacos and watch TV at home. It had a good effect: It helped us trim down and look good for our wedding day!

Preparing for the day itself was no joke. But with the Lord's help, the thousand-and-one details we needed to do fell into place.

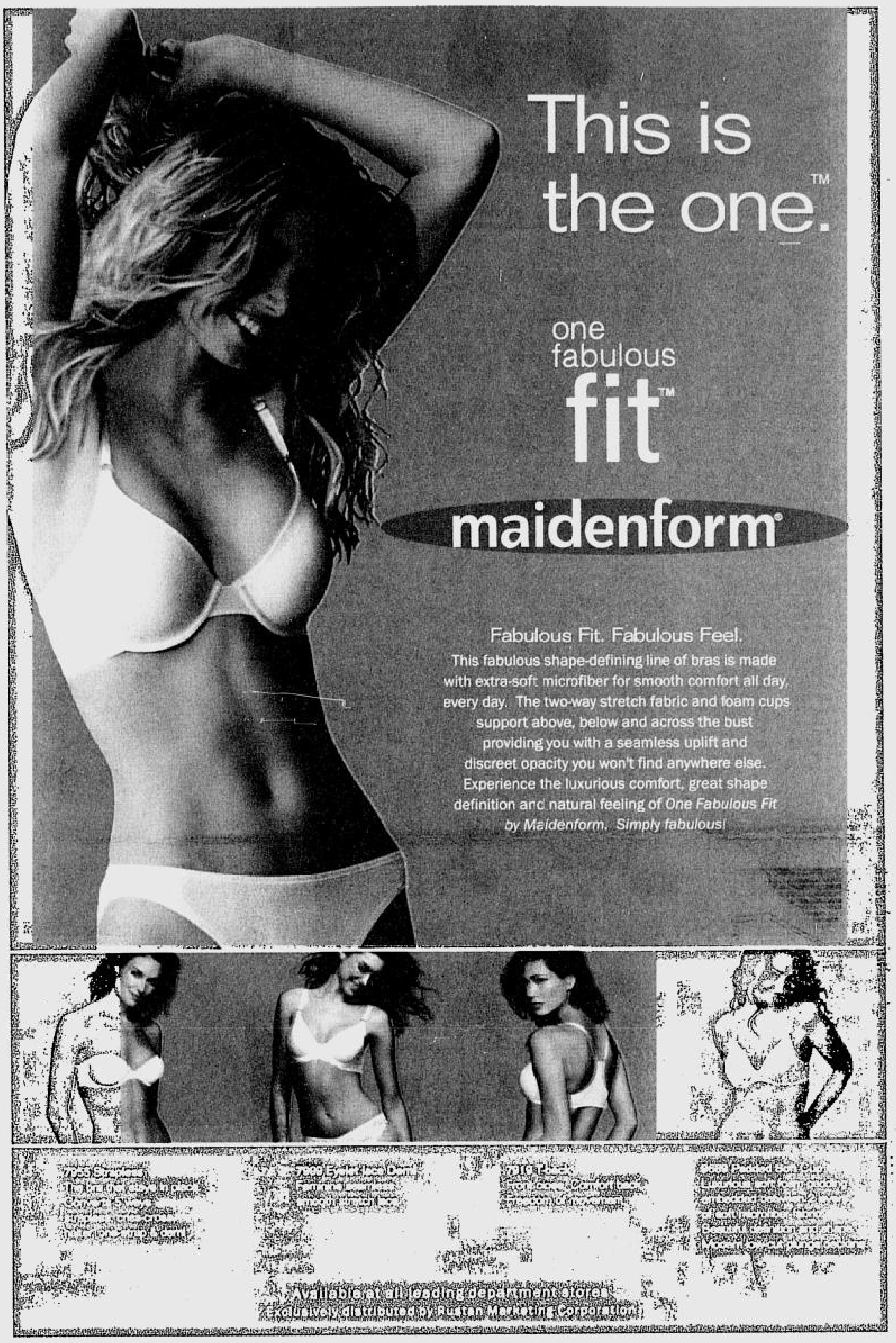
We informed our respective parents when the plan was all laid out. The church: Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park. The date: Aug. 16. The solemnizing minister: Msgr. Manuel Gabriel. The reception: at the banquet hall of the church, because we were anticipating rain.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, his very kind-hearted wife Milagros Drilon, Mayor Jejomar Binay, Mayor Lito Atienza, and

SO/13

THE BRIDE with her family: Jose Victor, Jesctoni, architect and Mrs. Tony Pelayo

THE GROOM with the male entourage: Dr. Mel Orozco, Dr. Jerome Mari Tan, Jose Vincent Tayag, Dr. Gabriel Valero and Dr. Eddie Lim



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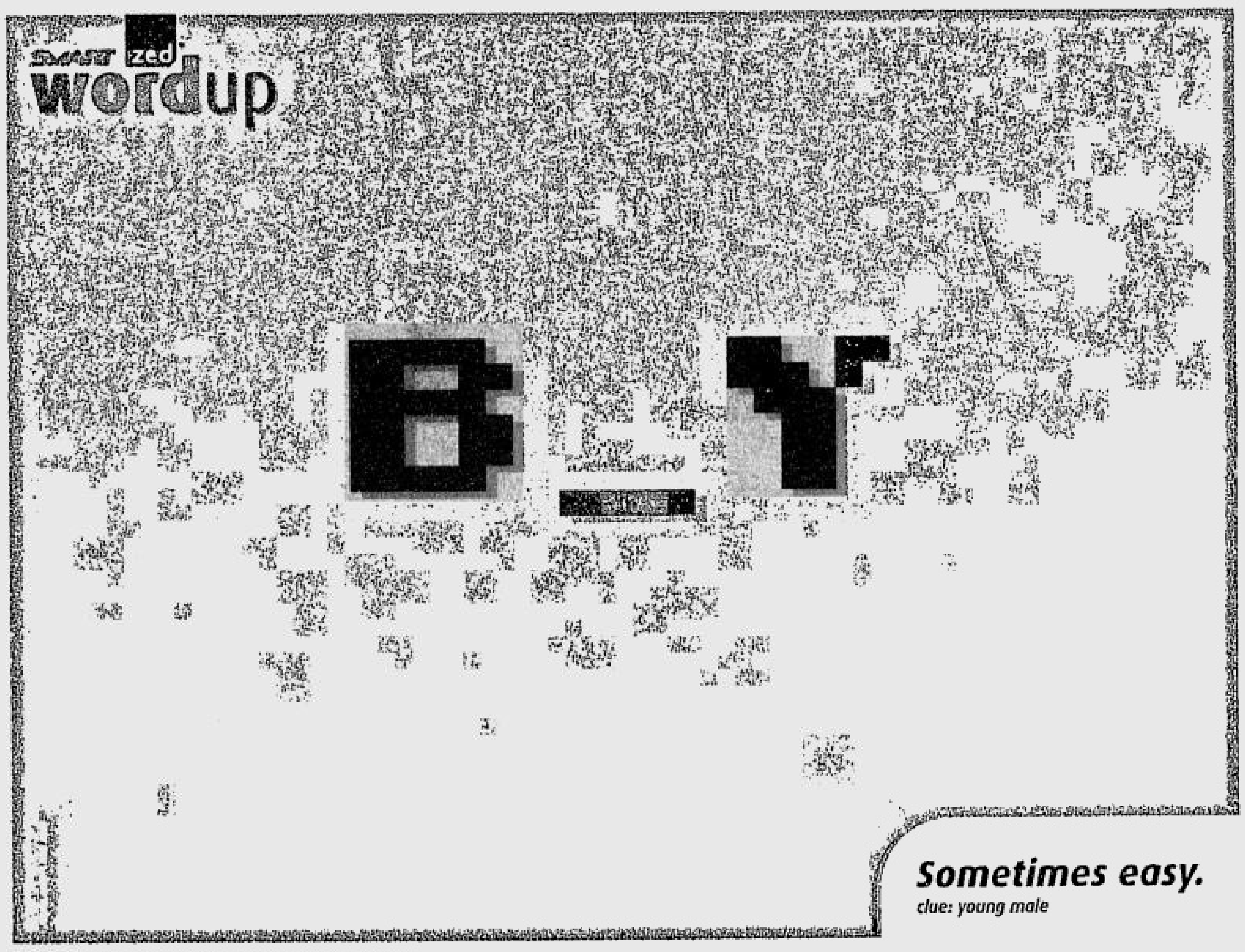
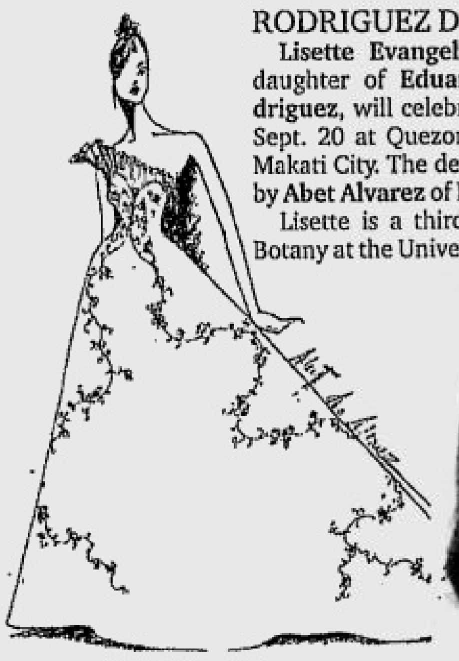


SMART zed wordup

Sometimes easy.
clue: young male

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the Inquirer *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



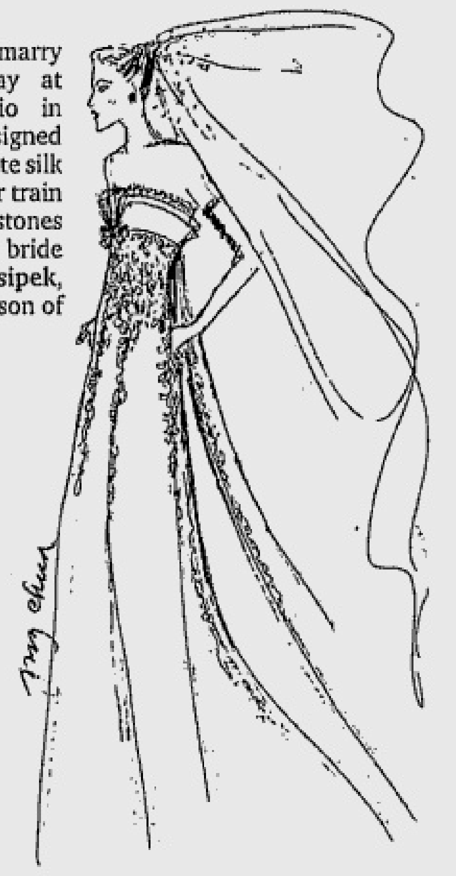
RODRIGUEZ DEBUT

Lisette Evangeline Atienza Rodriguez, daughter of **Eduardo** and **Dr. Lorna Rodriguez**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 20 at Quezon Hall, Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. The debutante will wear a gown by **Abet Alvarez** of Biñan, Laguna.

Lisette is a third year student taking up Botany at the University of Sto. Tomas.

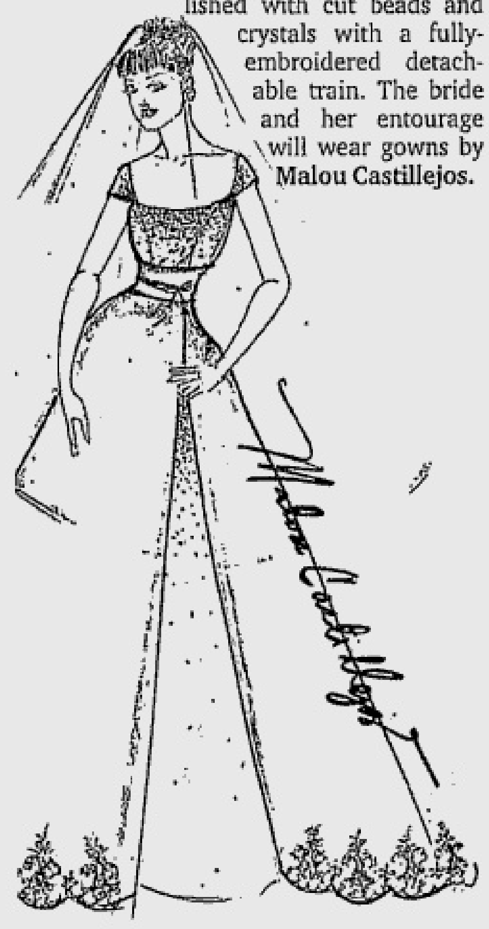
CHEUNG-TANSIPEK

Melody Tansipek will marry **Christopher Cheung** today at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park. The gown, designed by **Jing Chua**, is made of white silk with a detachable four-meter train embellished with Swarovski stones and sand crystal beads. The bride is the daughter of **Rosie Tansipek**, while the bridegroom is the son of **Victor** and **Annie Cheung**.



CASTILLEJOS-GUTIERREZ

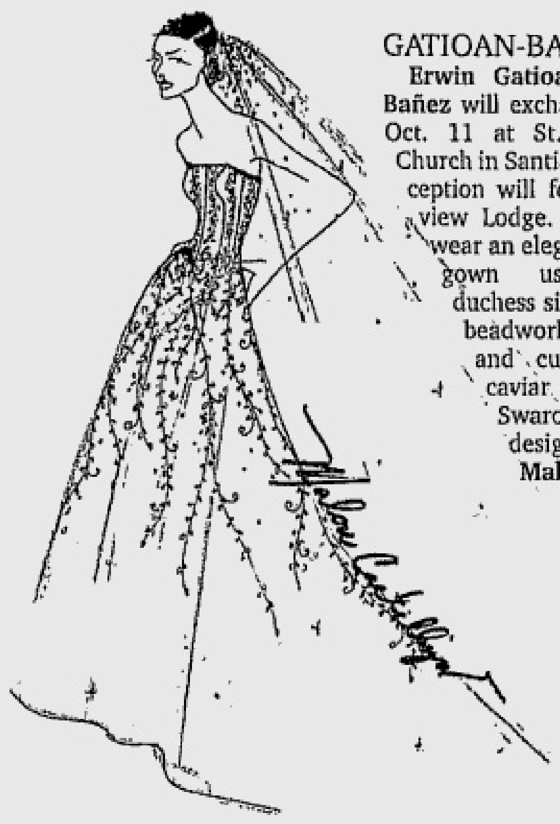
Ferdinand Castillejos and **Joan Clare Gutierrez** will exchange vows on Oct. 10 at Christ The King Parish. Reception will follow at Greenmeadows Clubhouse. Joan will wear a duchess silk princess cut gown embellished with cut beads and crystals with a fully-embroidered detachable train. The bride and her entourage will wear gowns by **Malou Castillejos**.



UY-LIM

Gulliver Uy, son of **George** and **Judy Uy**, exchanged "I dos" with **Janelle Lim**, daughter of **Ko Ty So Ling**, on Aug. 31.

The bride wore a **Leonard Co** gown, a white duchess satin piece cut tube creation, fully beaded and scattered with mixed crystal cut beads, sequins and Swarovski stones.



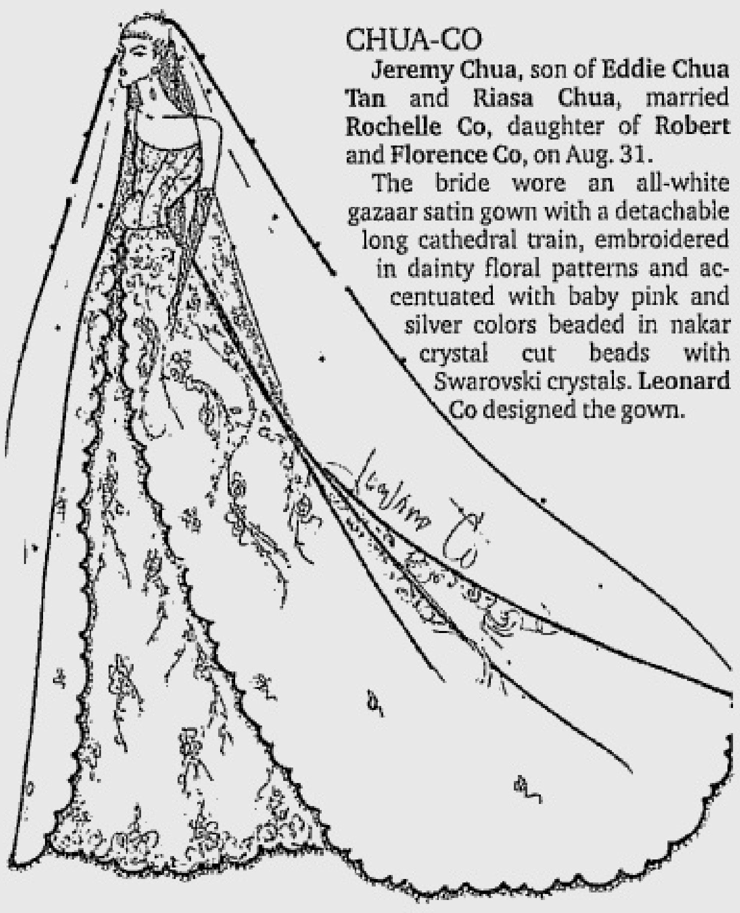
GATIOAN-BAÑEZ

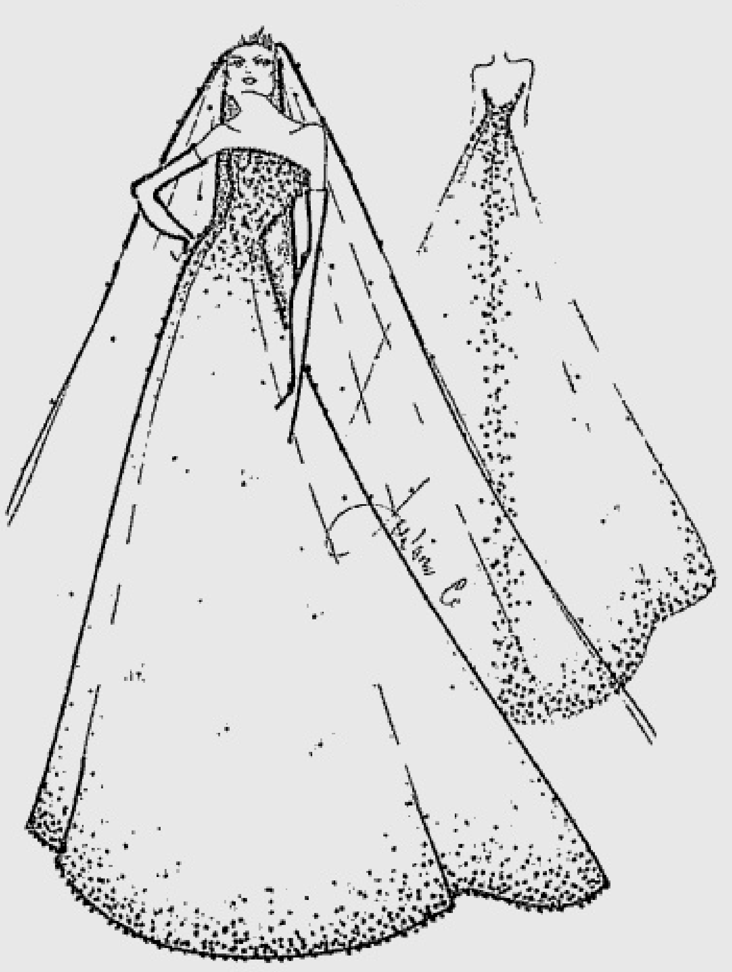
Erwin Gatioan and **Aileen Bañez** will exchange "I dos" on Oct. 11 at St. James Parish Church in Santiago, Isabela. Reception will follow at Greenview Lodge. The bride will wear an elegant princess cut gown using off-white duchess silk with intricate beadwork using sugar and cut glass beads, caviar and scattered Swarovski crystals, designed for her by **Malou Castillejos**.

CHUA-CO

Jeremy Chua, son of **Eddie Chua Tan** and **Riasa Chua**, married **Rochelle Co**, daughter of **Robert** and **Florence Co**, on Aug. 31.

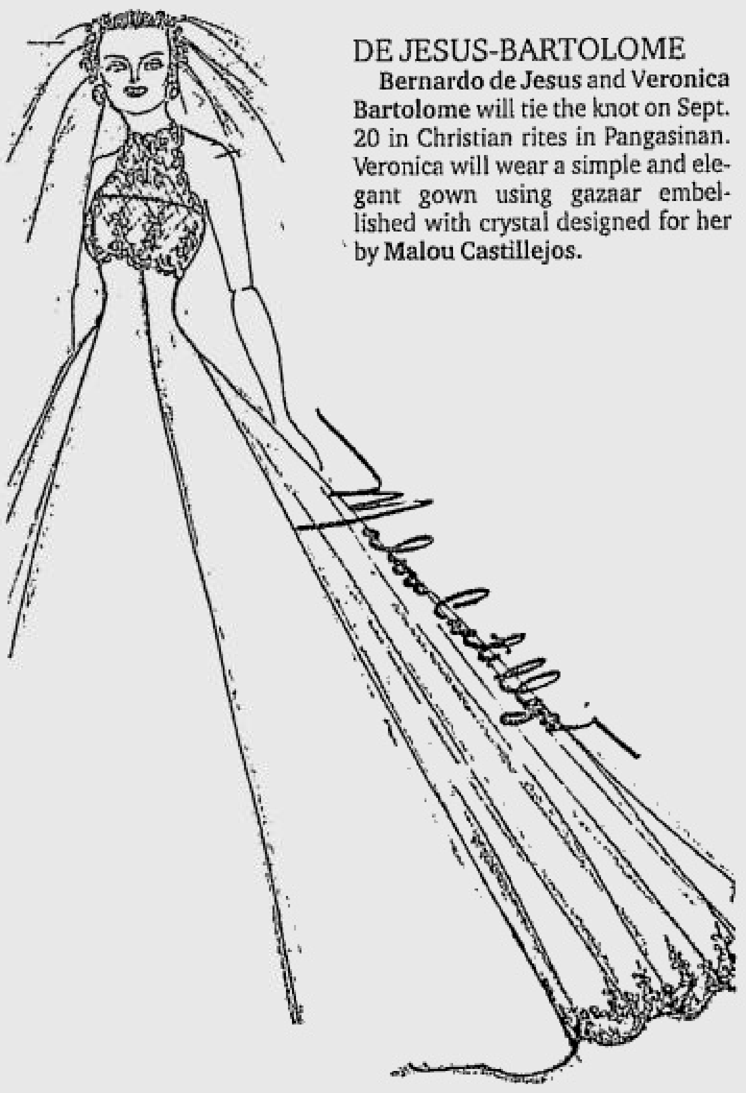
The bride wore an all-white gazaar satin gown with a detachable long cathedral train, embroidered in dainty floral patterns and accentuated with baby pink and silver colors beaded in nakar crystal cut beads with Swarovski crystals. **Leonard Co** designed the gown.





DE JESUS-BARTOLOME

Bernardo de Jesus and **Veronica Bartolome** will tie the knot on Sept. 20 in Christian rites in Pangasinan. Veronica will wear a simple and elegant gown using gazaar embellished with crystal designed for her by **Malou Castillejos**.



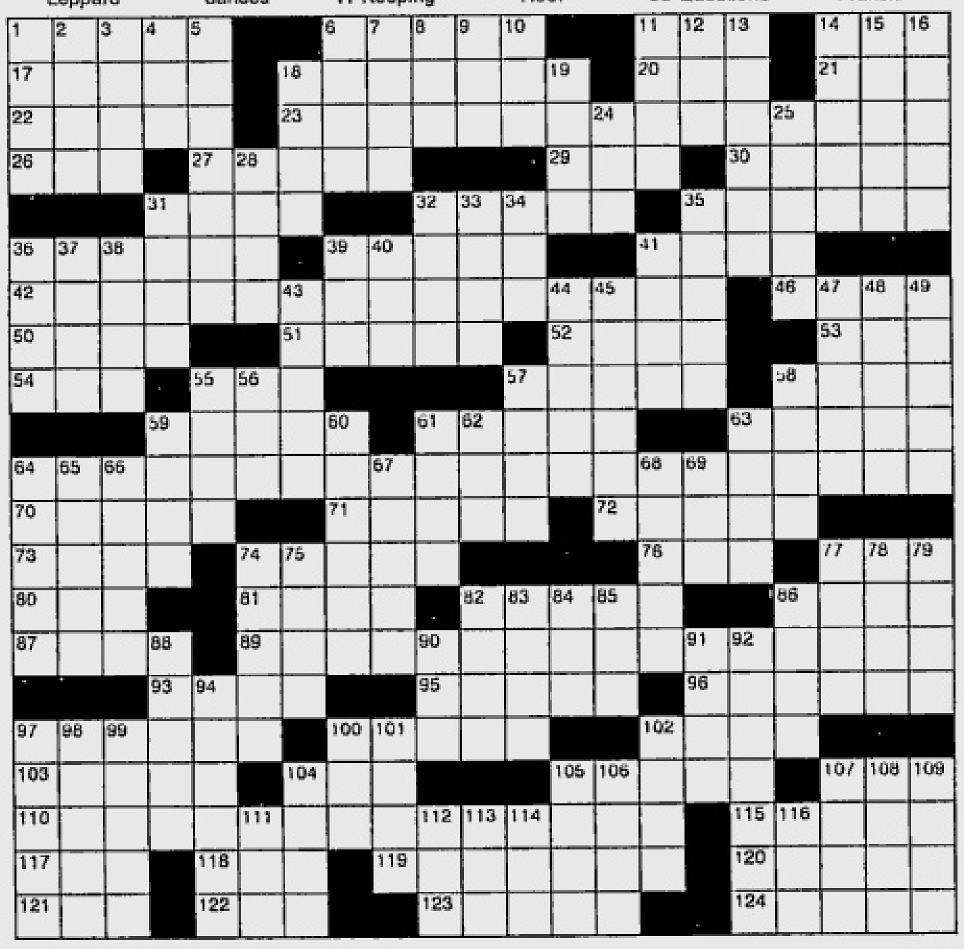
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

JOYFALL

ACROSS
1 "Frederica" composer
6 Trivial
11 Fare for a fry
14 '60s chic
17 Spud state
18 Neighbor of Georgia
20 Presidential nickname
21 Author Umberto
22 Callas and Caballe
23 Start of a remark
26 Monsarrat's "The Cruel —"
27 A lot
29 Manipulate
30 Make anxious
31 Potter's need
32 Diminish
35 People parts
36 Esoteric
39 Dwight's competition
41 Conductor Klemperer
42 Part 2 of remark
46 Caligula's nephew
50 "— fixe"
51 Examine
52 Adjust an Amati
53 Mauna —
54 Rock's — Leppard
55 Actress Ullmann
57 Like
58 Piazza's glove
59 North African capital
61 Ridicule
63 Western lake
64 Part 3 of remark
70 "The Plague" author
71 Director Kurosawa
72 Pasta ingredient
73 Blind as —
74 Sit in on a class
76 Like some sale mdse.
77 Chest protector
80 Equipment
81 Primer pooch
82 De Valera of Ireland
86 Mediocre
87 How-to part
89 Part 4 of remark
93 "So be it"
95 Muslim wise man
96 Got out of the way
97 Grave
100 Fancy dances
102 Quaker colonist
103 Spanish city
104 Precambrian —
105 Native New Zealander
107 Herriman's "Krazy —"
110 End of remark
115 Beethoven's "Fur —"
117 West ender?
118 "Evil Woman" group
119 — dog
120 Gymnast Comaneci
121 AAA offering
122 Baseball's Darling
123 Have kittens
124 — wave

DOWN
1 Peeper protectors
2 Falco of "The Sopranos"
3 "— Nagila"
4 "Take on Me" rockers
5 "The Barber of Seville" composer
6 Talking horse
7 Urchins
8 Ensnare
9 Indivisible
10 Brink
11 Keeping
12 Sapporo sash
13 Forsake
14 Maestro Zubin
15 Singer Billy
16 Dos and —
18 Strong — ox
19 Border on
24 Nationality suffix
25 TV's "— Train"
28 Singer Laine
31 Cabbage cousin
32 — Romeo
33 Cinema leopard
34 Word on a pump
35 Shellfish snacker
36 Surrounded by
37 Travel by tube
38 Musical symbol
39 Donkey
40 John — Passos
41 "What have I done!"
43 Maritime abbr.
44 Hit — (get along)
45 Belly laugh
47 Yale or Root
48 Helicopter part
49 Like some cereal
55 San — Obispo, CA
56 Hotel
57 Spanish etcher
58 Marshal Dillon
59 Hardware item
60 "— of a Doubt" ('43 film)
61 Polish partner
62 EMT skill
63 Godunov, e.g.
64 Traumatizes
65 Convent wear
66 Persona
67 Japanese dog
68 Uniform fabric
69 Literary contraction
74 Fall flower
75 "Once — a midnight dreary . . ."
77 Physicist Niels
78 "Understood!"
79 Stephen of "Ben-Hur"
82 Gouda alternative
83 Questions
84 1,101, to 46 Across
85 Resistance unit
86 Lightweight gun
88 Cellist Casals
90 Sweater letter
91 Done
92 Merciful
94 Less benevolent
97 Cavalry weapon
98 Public
99 Pooh's creator
100 Quid — quo
101 Interstate exit
102 Prepare to be shot
104 School founded by Henry VI
105 Marseilles mother
106 Parched
107 Big name in piracy
108 Kuwait's continent
109 Marsh duck
111 Day- —
112 Planet, for one
113 Prepare to feather?
114 Rush
116 Composer Francis



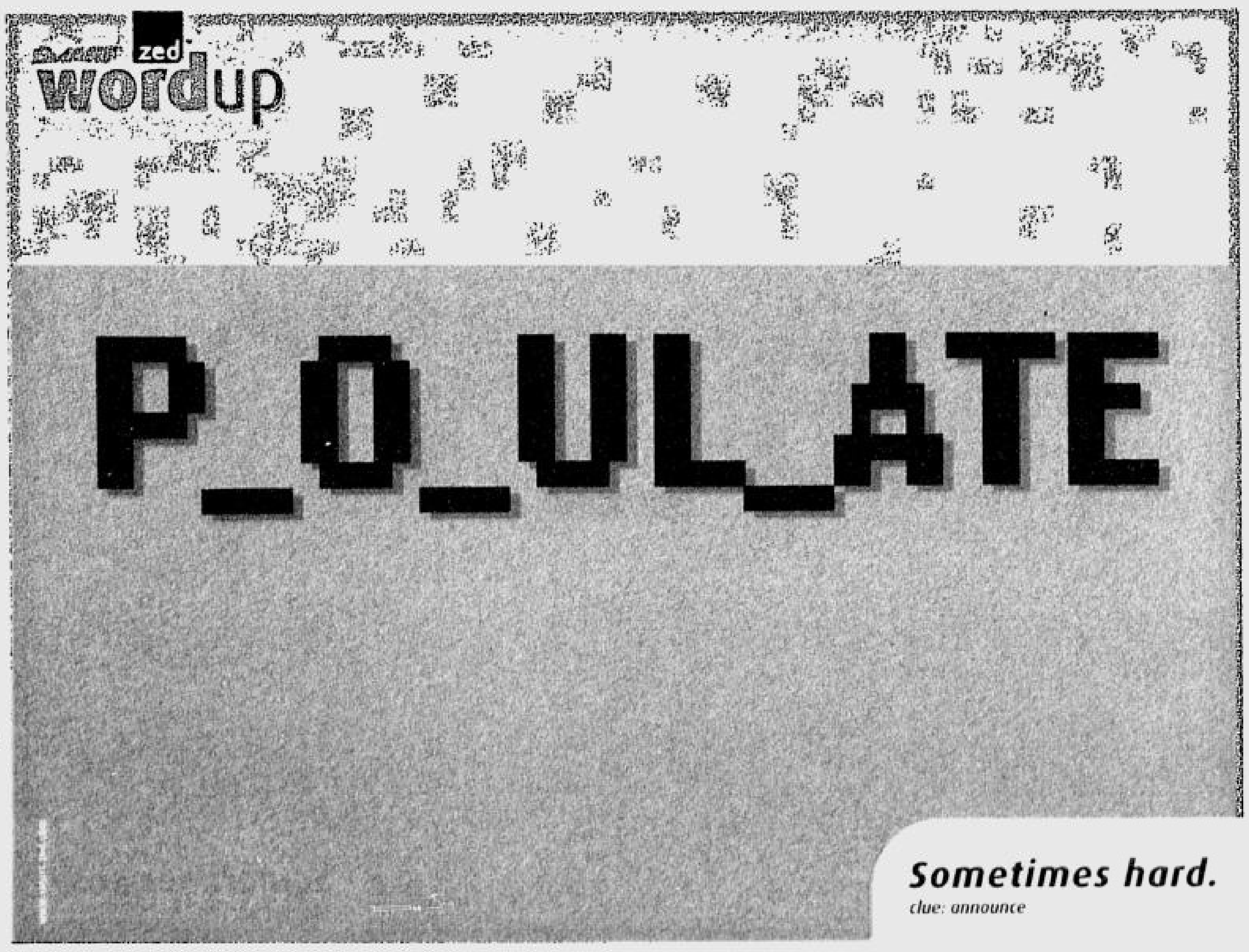
answer in E2

zed wordup

P_O_UL_ATE

Sometimes hard.

clue: announce



"YOU are now very much a part of me as the air that I breathe and the dreams I look forward to..."

SENATE President Franklin Drilon with district engineer of Kalibo Delano Pelayo and wife Dr. Myrtle Pelayo before the wedding

WITH THEIR PRINCIPAL sponsors: (from left) proxy for Mayor Lito Atienza , Manuel Lozada, Delano Pelayo, Ulysses Chan, Sen. Franklin Drilon, Mayor Jejomar Binay and Dr. Frederick Enrile; (female sponsors, from left) Dr. Juanita Carino, Mayor Soledad Eusebio, Milagros Drilon, Dr. Cheryl Tan, Dr. Myrtle Pelayo and Dr. Ma. Teresa Enrile

So it's him

From page 11

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Finally, the big day. A new chapter in my life began when the song "So It's You" began playing. It was my cue to walk down the aisle. And all I could think of was "Please don't let me trip in the middle of my walk" and "Am I walking too fast or too slow?"

But then it dawned on me. This was the grandest moment of my life! To be able to walk down the matrimonial aisle, at the end of which the one person that God had given me to be my lifelong partner was waiting, nervous but beaming with happiness, as I was.

That day, we started our journey through life together. My dream had come true.

DR. Carla Espina, Jennifer Basilan, Claudia Esquivel, Loida Acuna, Sherryl Patrocinio, Celeste del Rosario and matron of honor Dr. Joy Ann Lim

His girlfriend's child is difficult

LIVE AN
LET LIV

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Ruth and I are now on our second year. She has a six-year-old daughter, Jenjen, whose father still visits two or three times a month.

Recently, Jenjen misbehaved and I got so mad and tried to discipline her. She never saw me like that and I think she got more scared of me than physically hurt. Later, she told her mom she wanted me to move out and she wanted her biological father back.

I don't think I've been mean to her, and when I asked her why she didn't like me anymore, she said it was because I didn't play with her cousins enough. When pressed, however, she couldn't name anyone who played with them more than I did.

I don't know if these are just Jenjen's way of expressing anger over her parents' relationship or her contempt for me. We've had a good relationship, but I sense her anger from time to time. I've been a father figure to her for more than a year now, and I am shocked that after treating her like my own, she still feels this way.

What should I do? And if Jenjen's father decides to cut his ties with them, could we be a real family?

ABEL

Like almost every child, Jenjen's mind developed accepting an arrangement: her parents love her and she owes them her life and everything that keeps her alive and happy, so she must grant them the right to be mad at her and to discipline her.

That kind of quid pro quo is something that Jenjen will not, for a very long time, easily and totally grant you because you are (and let's accept it) some kind of a Johnny-come-lately in her life, and because her biological father is still very much around.

So keep that in mind if you want to get over your disappointment over how Jenjen seemed to have disregarded your one and a half years of hard work to be on her good side. It is not her fault if she disappointed you. It is, rather, the way society had conditioned her, and she's still much too young to overcome it.

To avoid similar conflicts with her, you have to be a lot more patient and diplomatic than a father who deals with his misbehaving biological child.

Jenjen's father married her mom, and sired her. All that, of course, had not made the three of them a real family. That's because a wedding does not necessarily make a marriage, and while siring a child makes a man its father, it does not necessarily make him a parent.

So, if you could be Ruth's spouse beyond merely being her legally married husband, and be Jenjen's parent beyond merely being her stepfather, then, yes, the three of you can be a real and happy family.

Of reuniting with first love

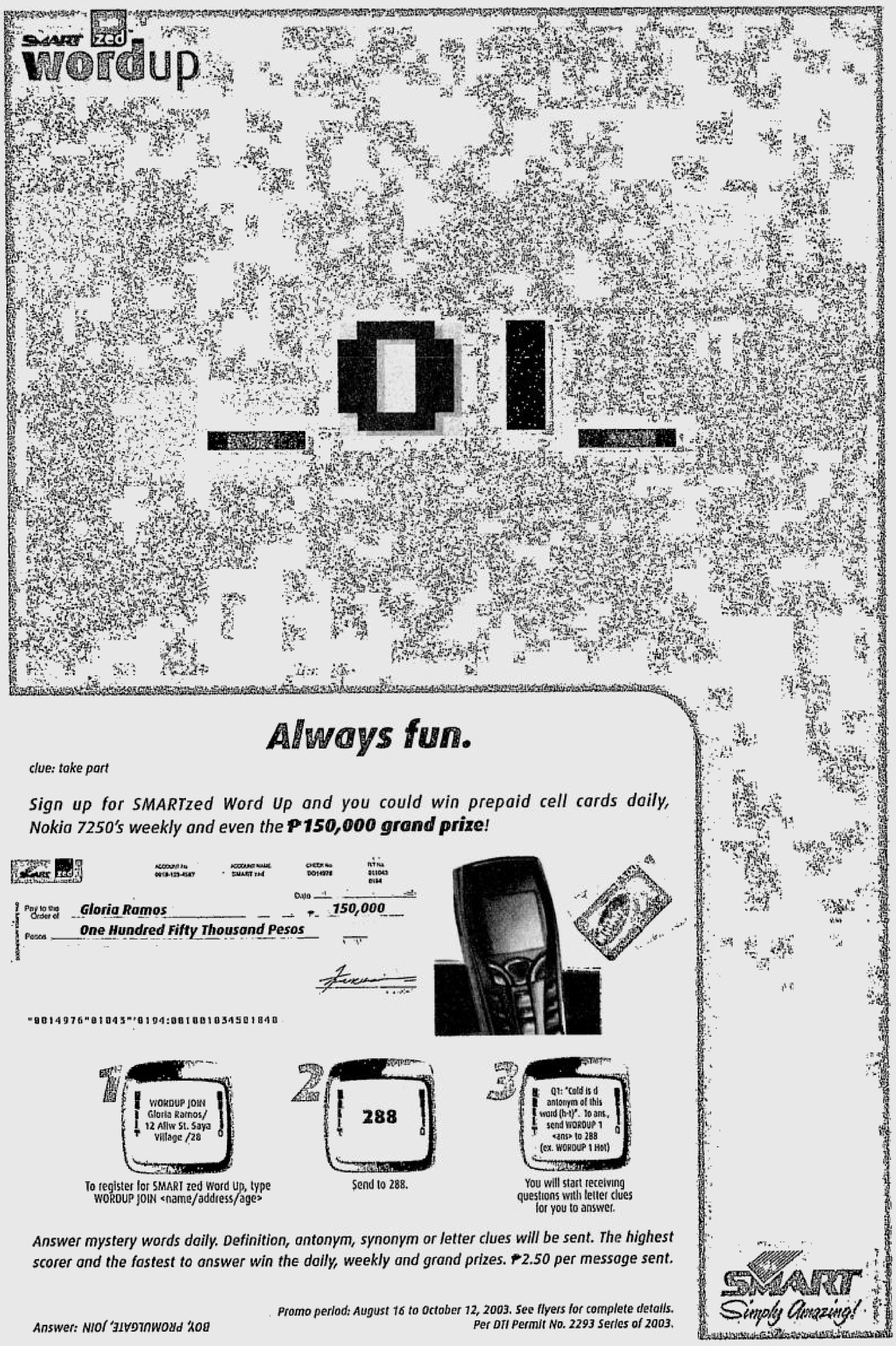
Cher's letter (08/31) about the joys of reuniting with her first love, and your warnings as to its risks, are true. I had the same experience.

A few years ago, I got reunited with my first girlfriend in high school. By then she had married someone else. One time I called her on my return from months-long work in Davao and told her I missed her. She said she missed me too. Then once, we agreed, that I would drive her to Novaliches because her husband would not. Luckily (unluckily at that time) she backed out. God knows what would have happened. We met a couple of times, but luckily for us we did not hold the wood too close to the fire.

I just got married and I don't think I'd like my wife to get in touch with her previous boyfriend! I think all men feel the same way I do.

Cher should just look back and smile at the good memories and then move on.

JOSH



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clue: take part

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2 288
Send to 288.

3 Q1: "Cold is d antonym of this word (h-t)". To ans., send WORDUP 1 <ans> to 288 (ex. WORDUP 1 Hot)
You will start receiving questions with letter clues for you to answer.

Answer mystery words daily. Definition, antonym, synonym or letter clues will be sent. The highest scorer and the fastest to answer win the daily, weekly and grand prizes. ₱2.50 per message sent.

Answer: BOY, PROMULGATE, JOIN

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Per DTI Permit No. 2293 Series of 2003.

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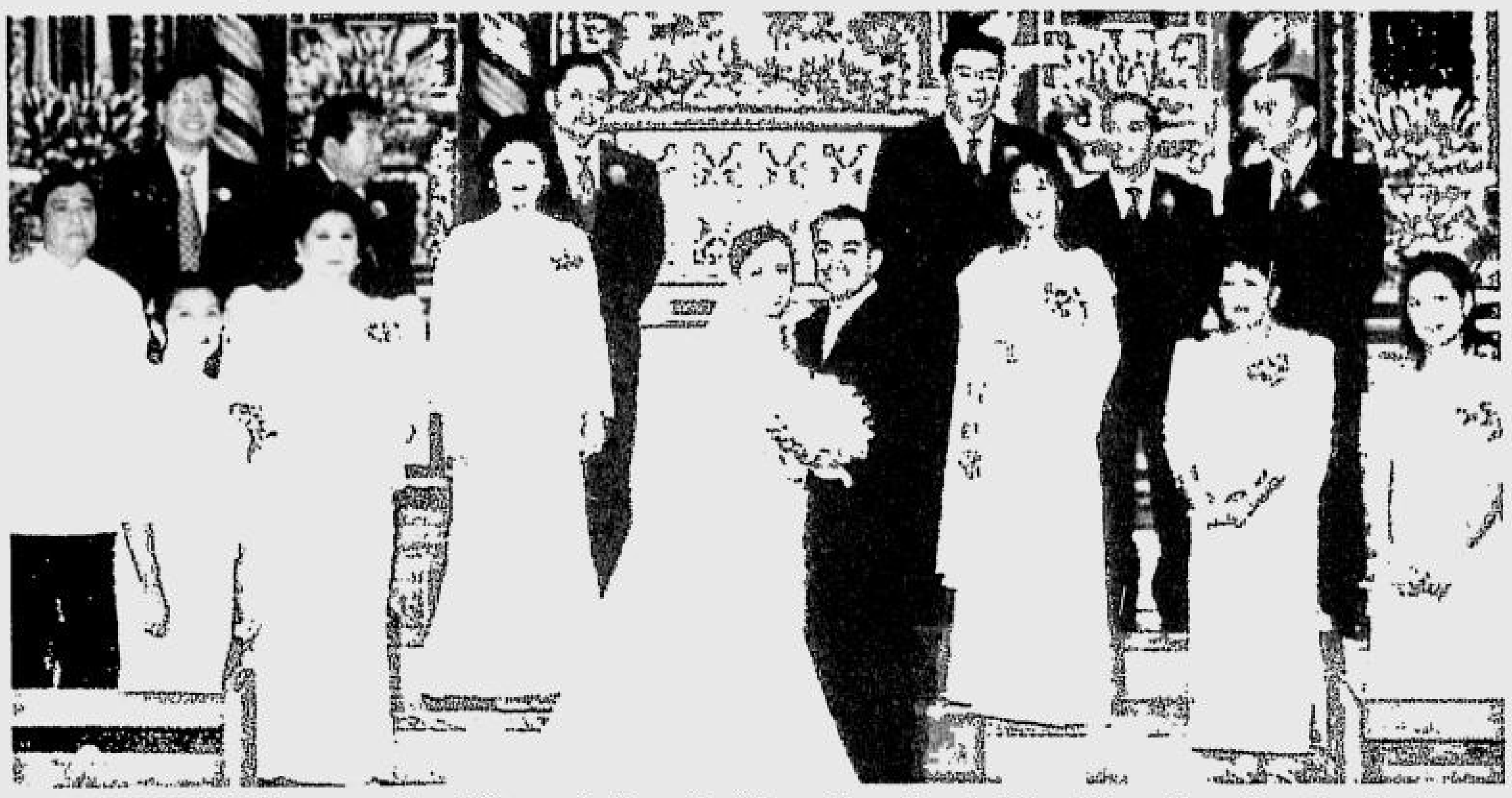
"YOU are now very much a part of me as the air that I breathe and the dreams I look forward to..."



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ABEL

Like almost every child, Jenjen's mind developed accepting an arrangement: her parents love her and she owes them her life and everything that keeps her alive and happy, so she must grant them the right to be mad at her and to discipline her.

That kind of quid pro quo is something that Jenjen will not, for a very long time, easily and totally grant you because you are (and let's accept it) some kind of a Johnny-come-lately in her life, and because her biological father is still very much around.

So keep that in mind if you want to get over your disappointment over how Jenjen seemed to have disregarded your one and a half years of hard work to be on her good side. It is not her fault if she disappointed you. It is, rather, the way society had conditioned her, and she's still much too young to overcome it.

To avoid similar conflicts with her, you have to be a lot more patient and diplomatic than a father who deals with his misbehaving biological child.

Jenjen's father married her mom, and sired her. All that, of course, had not made the three of them a real family. That's because a wedding does not necessarily make a marriage, and while siring a child makes a man its father, it does not necessarily make him a parent.

So, if you could be Ruth's spouse beyond merely being her legally married husband, and be Jenjen's parent beyond merely being her stepfather, then, yes, the three of you can be a real and happy family.

Of reuniting with first love

Cher's letter (08/31) about the joys of reuniting with her first love, and your warnings as to its risks, are true. I had the same experience.

A few years ago, I got reunited with my first girlfriend in high school. By then she had married someone else. One time I called her on my return from months-long work in Davao and told her I missed her. She said she missed me too. Then once, we agreed, that I would drive her to Novaliches because her husband would not. Luckily (unluckily at that time) she backed out. God knows what would have happened. We met a couple of times, but luckily for us we did not hold the wood too close to the fire.

I just got married and I don't think I'd like my wife to get in touch with her previous boyfriend! I think all men feel the same way I do.

Cher should just look back and smile at the good memories and then move on.

JOSH

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Per DTI Permit No. 2293 Series of 2003.

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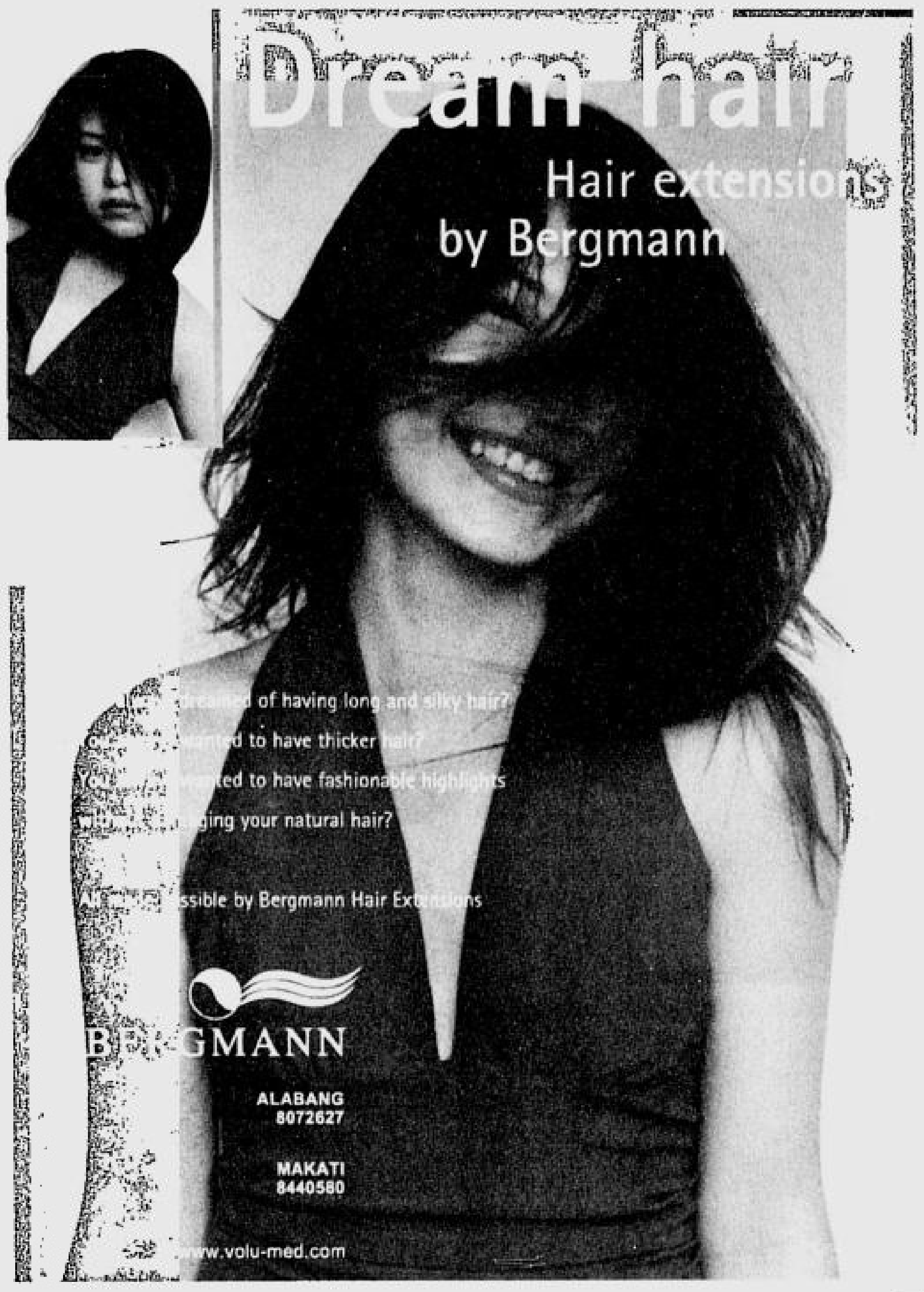
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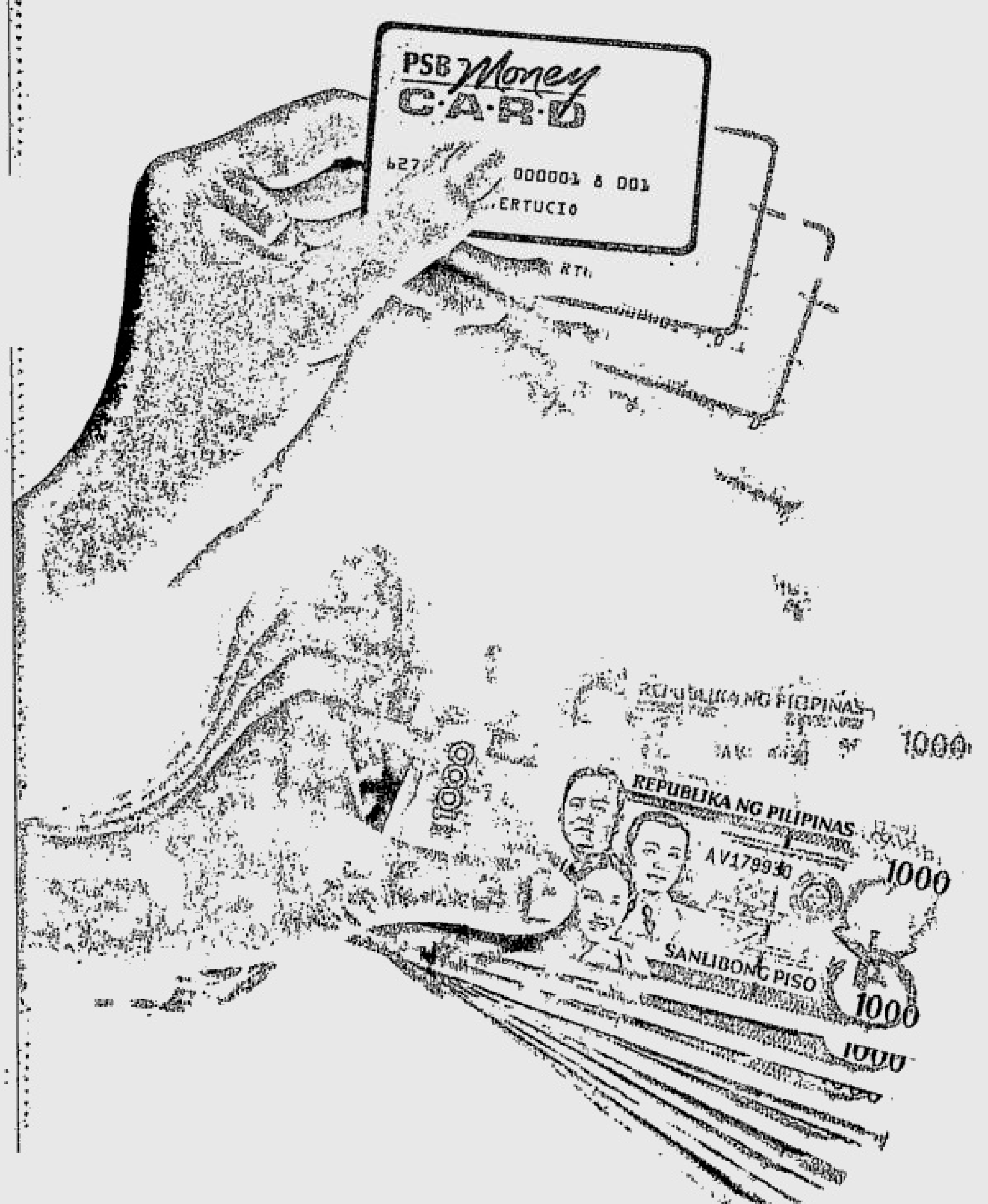

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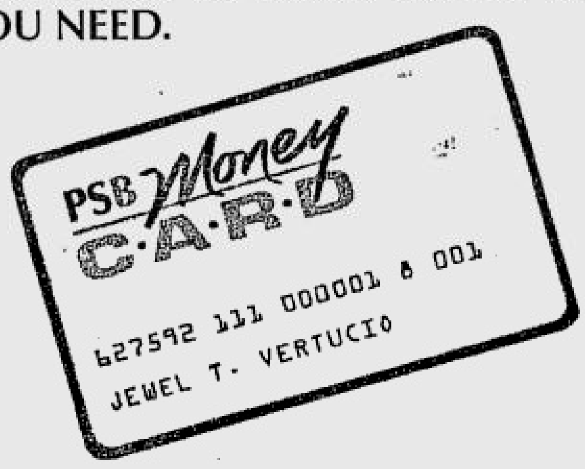

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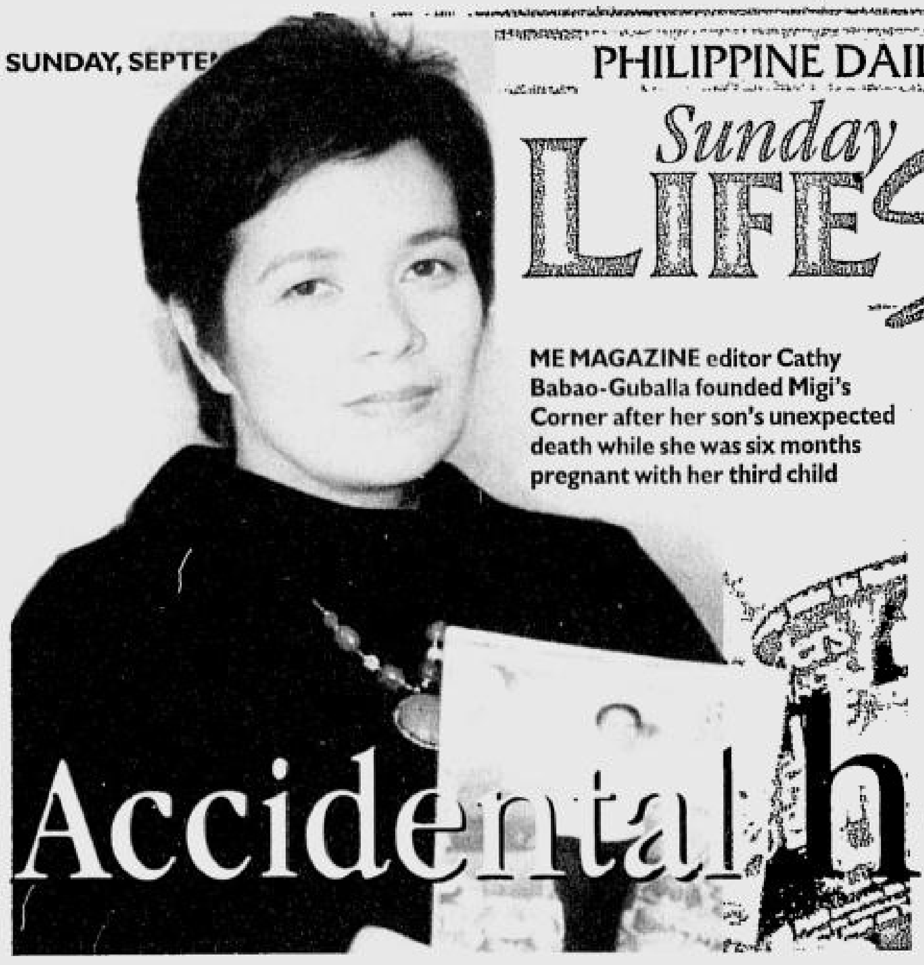

ME MAGAZINE editor Cathy Babao-Guballa founded Migi's Corner after her son's unexpected death while she was six months pregnant with her third child

Accidental heroes

Reader's Digest honors six Filipinos whose grace and courage under great odds have made them everyday inspirations

By Anne A. Jambora

CHARACTER makes a person. It is character, molded and defined during trying moments, that pushes one to rise above personal tribulations and touch the lives of others. It is character, above all, that makes heroes of everyday people.

Reader's Digest (RD) recently honored six Filipinos with the recognition of Everyday Heroes.

Theirs are stories of strength, courage and determination: Cathy Babao-Guballa, the mother who, upon the unexpected loss of her 4-year-old son Migi while six months pregnant with her third child, reached out to help other sick children; Edgar, Crispulo, Elorde and Rico Naga, brave souls who rescued passengers to safety when a plane crashed in Manila Bay; and James Auste, the cancer survivor who sought to create awareness and raise funds for pediatric cancer patients by pedaling across the country.

"We feature people who are making a difference in the world to help their fellowmen, people who act on their own and [are] not paid for what they do, people who feel strongly for a cause," says RD Asian Edition editor in chief Peter Dockrill.

Dockrill says RD receives over 100 stories every year for its monthly Everyday Heroes section. Only 36 see print, and three come from the Philippines.

"Nowhere is Reader's Digest highly regarded than here in the Philippines, [where it is] almost a member of the family," he notes.

Reaching out

"We come into this world completely unaware and oftentimes unprepared for both the joys and sad moments that lie ahead," says Babao-Guballa, RD's September issue cover story.

She set up Migi's Corner in 1999—a haven of books, toys and educational entertainment for sick kids in hospitals—in memory of her son Migi. Migi's Corner, soon to open its ninth branch in Cebu, is the product of this courageous woman's tireless efforts to seek donations through e-mail.

A former INQUIRER Lifestyle reporter and now a magazine editor, Babao-Guballa

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JT Read more. Win more!
GO TO PAGE A3

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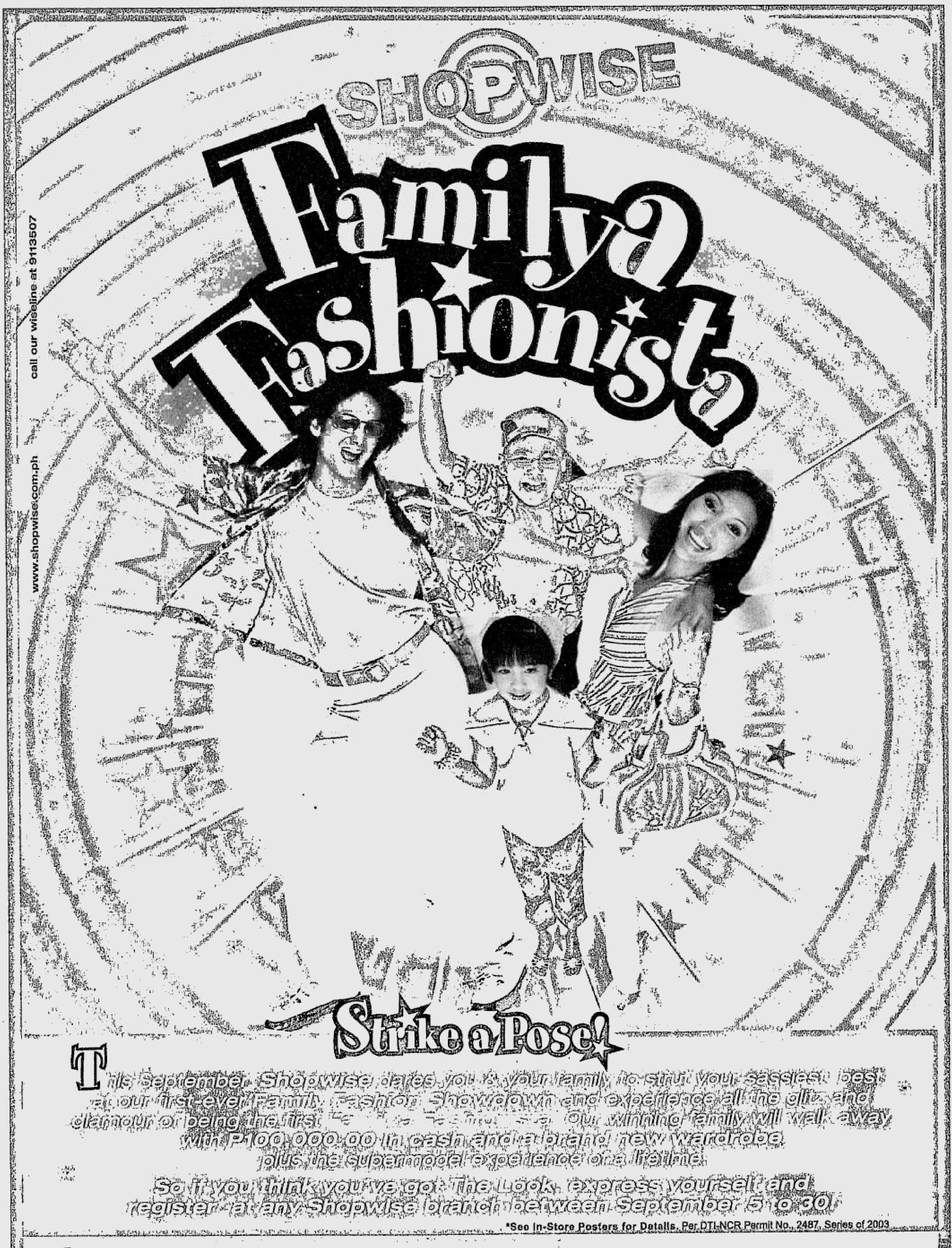

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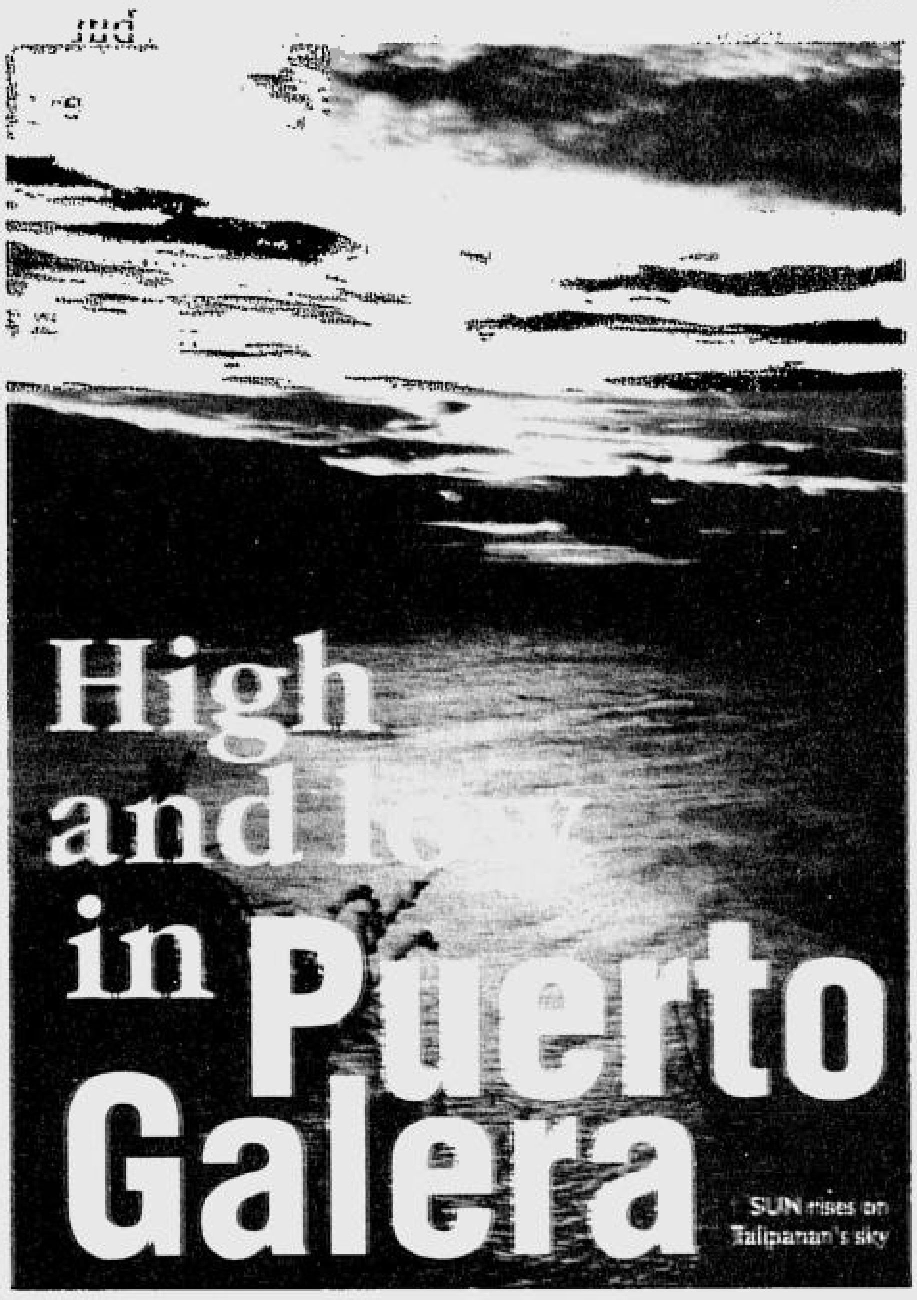
TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**



High and low in Puerto Galera

SUN rises on Talipanan's sky

Text and photos
by Maria Congee S. Gomez
Contributor

I AM not aware of events or festivals that have made Puerto Galera famous in the culture calendar. But I have read about it in glossy travel magazines gushing about its beaches. It also tops the list of vacationing US Peace Corps volunteers.

Puerto Galera is often described as "very quiet, with no nightlife beyond a few beers." Its people are said to be fast asleep by 9 p.m.

One day in May, I received by fax an invitation from its municipal government, purportedly to show guests "new" things in Puerto Galera.

The trip from Manila to the port of Batangas City went well. Counting the time spent in traffic and small stopovers, it totaled five hours. At the port, we bought tickets that got us to Sabang Island (a rather long route to reach our destination). But getting tickets on a Friday afternoon was the disorder of the day.

Friday is "hawkers' day," with almost half of Puerto Galera's population on their way home for weekend visits. The lobby of the port area was a virtual sea of people. It was good that we caught up with "White Beach. Oh, White Beach," the only pump boat available at that time; otherwise, we would have had to wake up very early the next morning to catch the first trip out.

Frankly, it did not matter to me whether we'd be left behind or take the noon trip the next day. I have endured so many hassles during long trips that I suppose I have gotten used to endless waiting.

What was particularly irksome was the decision of the sailors to load 55 additional passengers on the boat when the seating capacity was only 65. There was a discussion on the matter of overloading, but nothing so decisive that led to the off-loading of the extra passengers.

The weather was cooperative and the ride wasn't as bumpy as I imagined. The boat sped at 17 knots an hour. My companions proceeded to take a catnap or to nibble on chips, while I spent a great deal of time observing the movements of the azure waters, as well as living creatures including what I guessed was a kingfisher that flapped its wings inches above the surface, a piece of fresh matter dangling from its bill.

The boat docked at the port of Sabang Island past 5 p.m. The daily routine had probably ended because the fish traders were now engaged in banter as others huddled over the local brew, *kapeng barako*.

A number of fish stalls offered guliasan at P85 a kilo and tilapia at P80.

Perhaps our hosts were new at inviting visitors. There were no welcoming local officials in sight. We had no idea what to expect as we had not been given a program of activity.

I took it upon myself to look for a tourist brochure about Puerto Galera. These were the facts I gathered:

The town has 12 coastal barangays and a mountain barangay called Baclayan, where a Mangyan community thrives.

There is a museum displaying ancient Chinese and Thai burial jars and Filipino pottery dating back to more than 2,000 years.

Dulangan has beautiful beaches. The Tamaraw Falls has cool mountain water that plummets into a natural pool from high above the road and down to two man-made swimming pools.

Immediately, the image of Puerto Galera 10 years ago raced through my mind. Was it in the mid-1990s when reports of drug trafficking and cases of pedophilia made the news?

To my surprise, Vice Mayor Juan Acsan hinted that these conditions persisted. (And just last week, a Puerto Galera resident told me of the rampant sale of the so-called "magic mushroom," supposedly grown in cow or carabao feces in Baclayan.)

At Puerto Galera's three entry points—Balatero, White Beach and Sabang—the traffic of pump boats was brisk. Acsan admitted that the local government unit had insufficient funds to beef up security measures at the entry points.

The Philippine Ports Authority and the Coast Guard have proposed the creation of a single entry point for better monitoring of the pump boats. Unfortunately, a resolution had yet to be passed on the matter.

At the time of our visit, clashes between the New People's Army and the military in the town of San Teodoro were still news. A number of business entities, including resort owners, have reportedly not been spared "revolutionary taxes."

In Talipanan, the townsfolk complained of power interruptions lasting up to four hours daily.

"We have aired our grievances to Mayor Teo Atienza, who promised to do something about the matter," said Lucy Evangelista, operations manager of GM Resort.

A power barge owned by the semi-private Oriental Mindoro Electric Corp. supplies electricity to Oriental and Occidental Mindoro. At the time of our visit, a search was ongoing for a land-based site to stabilize power supply.

Up in Malasimbo, longtime residents Tony Taylor and Hubert d'Aboville complained of widespread kaingin practices in San Isidro and Balatero. They said the San Bernardino Strait was the beehive of marble quarrying activities.

"Everybody is politicking and it is getting worse every year," said Taylor, owner of the Ponderosa Golf and Country Club.

D'Aboville, vice chair of the Puerto Galera tourism council, attributed the frequent blackouts to the dilapidated barge owned by the National Power Corp. A native of Britanny, France, he is married to Filipina Ara Valenzuela and has been living here for 20 years.

That's Day One for a person who learned of Puerto Galera from the pages of glossy travel magazines. I admit I had a change of perspective given what I was seeing and hearing. Worse, Atienza was a no-show for the duration of our visit; he left Acsan to answer questions on his behalf.

Talipanan reminded me of a remote revelry—laid-back ways, slurred speech, and women squatting on mats engaged in *tong-its*.

I patiently traced back to where the jeepney stopped. I knew the sandy feeder road would connect me beyond Talipanan. Never mind the dust and the long wait for the tricycle; I hired it primarily to bring me to a promontory where the view of the plump orange sun would be good. I felt better when the sun completely "melted down" and treated me to a feast of colors.

White Beach apparently remains a favorite hangout. At 8 p.m. it was bustling with activity and I checked out the souvenir shops.

The practical buys were: sleeveless cotton shirt, P75-P90; floral shorts, P100-P170 each; floral printed skirt matched with a halter blouse, P150; cotton shirt, P100; midrib cotton blouse, P50; three-tiered bonnet, P90; long dress for beachwear, P150-P170; wraparound skirt, P100-P120 or P150-P180.

I chanced upon Vicente dela Peña, vice president of the Puerto Galera Unified Tour Guides, who, at that time, was busy preparing an array of grilled items.

I asked him what made White Beach popular among tourists.

He readily replied: "The Caribbean-Boracay ambience is one probable cause. The place is part urban, part rural, that one feels he has not left home.

"Another reason could be the open bars that are reminiscent of Malate's landscape. There is no set decorum, no dress code. The party animals can come as they are. There is no cover charge on ladies' drinks. When movie celebrities drop by, they are hardly given preferential treatment."

There are 20 open bars and 22 barbecue stalls belonging to an association, which sets the uniform costs of food and drinks.

The food consists of stuff fresh off the grill: pork, chicken, fish or squid, with rice or without, hotdog on a stick, egg with tomatoes and onions, eggplant with tomatoes, onions and a serving of fish paste, etc.

For the best tasting barbecue with lots of sauces and chili concoctions, try Fernando's Seaside Café.

The drinks are derived from fresh fruits in season—pineapple, orange, mango, melon, banana, or mandarin orange. At that time, a tall glass, which comes with a tiny red parasol and half a cherry, cost P20-30. Beer in a can went for P35, and in a bottle, P30.

Outside, batik cloth and crafted décor shells from Palawan were being sold. Acsan said Palawan items were competing very well with local crafts, but tourists still preferred the stuff woven by Mangyan communities.

But business is a seasonal matter for the owners. The rainy season spells bad-hair days for the cash register, and the summer months spell profit. The Europeans usually come in October-February; the Korean honeymooners, as many as 50 to 100 at a time, the rainy season; the Japanese, December; and the local tourists, summer months.

Restaurants and bars are normally closed during the rainy season and owners creatively resort to selling their wares in the market or tending a *sari sari* store.

Yes, the spate of reported kidnappings, bomb threats and SARS also badly affected business at Puerto Galera.

But on a positive note, the seascape was quite OK. The romantics in our group enjoyed a candle-lit dinner and a variety of activities took place one after the other—wild, subdued and sweet.

Mine was rather sedate. I laid my body flat on the shoreline to enjoy Nang Idad's full-body massage at P150 per hour. What wonders it did for my tired feet.

And then I marvelled at the wide galaxy filled with sparkling things...

I fervently hope that after this, things will be much better in Puerto Galera.

READY for business at the open bar

VIEW of White Beach from a distance

TRAVELBRIEFS

Bulacan Week

A CELEBRATION of arts, culture, history and tradition will be held Sept. 8-15 in the province of Bulacan to coincide with the 105th anniversary of the Malolos Congress.

The festivities, with the theme "Pamana ng Kalinangan at Kasaysayan, Pamukaw Sigla sa Maunlad na Kabuhayan," will kick off with simultaneous opening rites in Bulacan's 22 towns and two cities.

Gov. Josie dela Cruz will award the Gawad Dangal ng Lipi to the province's sons and daughters who have excelled in their respective fields.

Among the activities are the "Tatak Bulakenyo" product launch and trade fair; an exhibit of works by Joya and Malang at the Barasoain Church; exhibits of photos and bonsai; job fairs; and quiz shows.

There will also be an exhibit showcasing the life and works of National Artist for Music Antonino Buenaventura at the Sentro ng Sining at Kultura building in the capital, Malolos City.

Not only an industrial hub but also historic site and tourist destination, Bulacan takes pride in such attractions as the caves and natural pools in Biak-na-Bato; the Barasoain Church, site of the Revolutionary Congress that drafted the first Philippine Constitution; the Hilltop Lake in Norzagaray; and the springs in San Miguel and Pandi.

'WOWOxford Rate'

THE 27-STORY Oxford Suites at Durban corner Burgos Streets in Makati City is offering a special promo this month dubbed "WOWOxford Rate."

For P1,900++, guests can stay in executive rooms with a view of the Makati skyline, have a relaxing breakfast at the coffee shop, and work out in a fully equipped gym.

The boutique hotel is centrally located, with a number of international restaurants and multinational corporations within walking distance and Metro Manila's premier business and commercial district a few minutes away.

It has 232 fully furnished rooms and suites and all the other amenities for business and pleasure, as well as such services as airport transfers, laundry and pressing, and information on locations and the local culture.

For more information, call 670-3333 or go to www.oxfordsuites-makati.com.

Solidarity

A 3-DAY solidarity celebration is ongoing in Vigan City, a World Heritage site, until Sept. 8.

The highlight of the celebration is the signing of a sisterhood agreement between the city government of Vigan and Lal-lo, Cagayan. Barangay presentations consist of pre-Spanish, Spanish, American, Japanese and Liberation periods.

A total of 117 countries around the world are observing World Heritage Cities' Solidarity Day. The event is aimed at promoting worldwide awareness of conservation of heritage sites.

Vigan Mayor Eva Marie Singson-Medina said that by conserving its heritage, the Philippines would be able to preserve its identity and authenticity and the continuity of its civilization.

"Heritage sites are magnets for travel, spiritual nourishment and renewal," she said. "There has been an upsurge in the number of travelers who visit and enjoy the structures, culture, values and objects that make up the patrimony we preserve."

As the best preserved example of a planned Spanish settlement in Asia, Vigan is unique among the heritage sites because it is a living museum comprising almost two-thirds of the entire poblacion area, with 180 religious, civic and residential structures that are mostly privately owned.

Spring treats

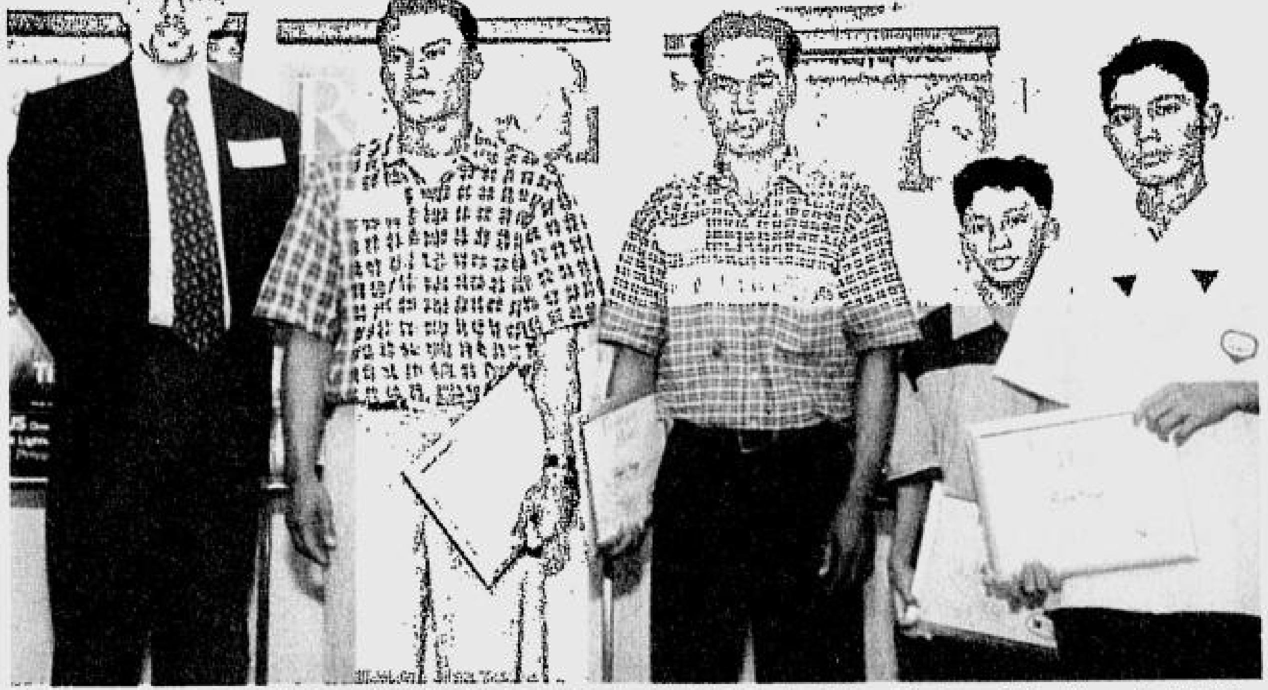
TRAVELERS can enjoy the green season in Australia for as low as US$499 and New Zealand, for only US$749.

Qantas' single-city Australia package includes round-trip economy airfare and 3-night hotel accommodation in any of these cities—Sydney, Melbourne, or Gold Coast, plus a complimentary pass to the Sydney Aquarium, Melbourne Aquarium or Currumbin Sanctuary in Gold Coast.

A 2-city package for US$599 includes round-trip economy airfare, three-night hotel accommodation in each city, plus a bonus tour.

The New Zealand package includes round-trip economy airfare, 3-night hotel accommodation and airport transfers in either Auckland or Christchurch. On the way, travelers can stop in Sydney for free.

Tours are valid for departures until Oct. 31. Call your travel agent or the Qantas Tours Desk at 812-3734.


READER'S Digest Asian Edition editor-in-chief Peter Dockrill with Crispulo, Edgar, Elorde and Rico Naga, the family that rescued passengers from a plane crash in Manila Bay last year.

JAMES Auste, the cancer survivor-cum-cyclist on a mission to raise awareness about the disease and greater access to affordable drugs

Accidental heroes

From page J1

says it's in reaching out that you heal yourself.

"You are where you are right now for a specific purpose. When parents lose a child, what helps them move on is when they find a meaning to the loss. Migi couldn't have died in vain," she says.

"I'm thrilled by the recognition. It's an affirmation that I'm doing the right thing," she adds. Her first affirmation, she says, was when she opened the eighth Migi's Corner on the same year Migi would have turned 8.

Babao-Guballa dreams one day of opening Migi's House, where rooms can be rented for a minimal fee by sick children's parents or their guardians. This idea dawned on her when she discovered many less fortunate folk sleeping on hospital floors and seats because they couldn't afford room rents.

When life chokes you and pushes you to the corner, priorities become clear, says Babao-Guballa. "You can choose to become bitter, like thinking what's all these Corners going to do if I can't bring my son back. Or you can choose the other road and instead become a better person."

Voice of children

"I am not here as a hero, but as a messenger of God, a voice for Filipino children dying needlessly, painfully and hopelessly in our hospitals," says cyclist-with-a-cause James Auste.

"Cancer is very treatable, manageable and curable at an early stage. That's why I'm still here."

In a 1998 study, Auste says, a Filipino child died from cancer every three hours-eight children every day or 2,500 children per year. And that 5-year-old data did not even include Visayas and Mindanao.

And when it comes to cancer, western countries have a survival rate of 70-90 percent. But the Philippines only has 10-30 percent.

Auste was a 19-year-old Ateneo de Manila University political science student when he was diagnosed with two brain tumors in 1996. Fighting back, he discovered, through intensive research, that many Filipino children succumb to the disease "not because they were weak or their parents didn't care or their doctors were stupid, but because their families were poor. They couldn't afford the necessary treatment for their medicines," as he explains it.

Two years ago, Auste met with Health Assistant Secretary Eric Domingo to request the inclusion of chemotherapy drugs in GMA's parallel importation program. He says Domingo gave him his word, and even asked for a list of these drugs.

"But after two years of patiently waiting, after 5,000 kids have died... DOH called me a few days ago. *Hindi daw* priority because based on their research on government hospitals, there was no demand," he says. "There probably was no demand because nobody could afford it. Cancer is the No. 3 killer in the Philippines, so how can there be no demand?"

The local price of cancer medicines is one of the highest in Asia, even higher than western countries, Auste points out. Thus, he is encouraging people to write or call executives, government sectors, even the President, "so that they can take the necessary steps and include in their priority a program that will lower the cost of medicine by 50 percent."

To the rescue

When the Laoag International Airlines Fokker 27 crashed into Manila Bay on Nov. 11 last year, Crispulo Naga immediately dived into a sea of blood and oil and began frantically pulling out passengers, dead or alive, from the wreckage.

His brother, Edgar, joined him in the rescue effort, together with cousin Rico, 15, and Edgar's son Elorde, 12.

The two kids looked after the boat while the grownups dived in and out of the water, shouting for help from nearby fishermen who, until then, were too stunned to move.

"Hindi ko na naisip kung ano yung kapahamakan na pwedeng mangyari. Naawa ako sa mga pasahero," recalls Edgar of that hellish morning.

"Utos na rin yun ng Diyos na nandun kami at makatulong sa mga tao," adds Crispulo.

He says the last passenger he pulled out was a Caucasian, and as they swam away from the plane, Crispulo looked back over his shoulders and saw the wreckage disappear into the hazy crimson sea.

The brothers don't like to think they were heroes. They just did what anyone should do at the time, they say.

"Basta nakatulong lang kami. Yun ang importante. Hindi ko rin naman naisip na balang araw mabibigyan kami ng [recognition] *sa aming ginawa,"* says Edgar.

"May mga tao yun, eh, may mga buhay. Dapat silang matulungan," adds Crispulo.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

'I am not here as a hero, but as a voice for Filipino children dying needlessly and painfully in our hospitals,' says cyclist-with-a-cause James Auste

Appear in the next Dove commercial in a dream role.
As Yourself.

"When I said she's my grandaughter, they said, 'what?!"
- *Susan Gaddi-Campos*

"Kahit mataba ako, maganda naman skin ko. O 'di ba?"
- *Leila Lee*

"Naging makulit si husband."
- *Lidu Bakunawa*

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THE SEARCH FOR REAL WOMEN WITH REAL STORIES

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You might just become the next Dove lady to appear on TV.

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  Name, address, age & birthday, contact number
- Any one of the ff. packs:
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  One (1) Facial Foam tube 50ml cap
  Three (3) Facial Foam 10ml sachets
  One (1) Facial Foam tube 100ml cap
- Any recent photograph of yourself

2. Send entries to:
Dove Discovery
Unilever Philippines
1351 U.N. Avenue Metro Manila
Call 564-3333 or 1-800-10-564-3333 toll free

Or drop in boxes in ALL branches of:
mercury drug

Prizes:
A. Major Winners (2)
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- P120,000 in cash
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B. Semifinalist Winners (10)
- P 15, 000 in cash
- Dove moment in a spa
- Dove products

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November 15, 2003
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JOB Market

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2003
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OVERSEAS SECTION ON
PAGE K15

Where You Find The Best.

MCI

Wanted:

- Operations Manager
- Call Center Supervisor
- Marketing Associate
- Training & QA Manager
- Call Center Trainer
- QA Specialist
- Facilities Manager
- Accounting Manager

We're looking to expand our most valuable technology—our staff.

MCI, one of the world's largest communications companies, offers Internet, data and voice services to over 22 million customers in 65 countries. So how did we get this way? We built our company around our most advanced technology—our staff, the most forward thinking work force in the business today. With an extensive range of IP, hosting, VPN and data communications, it's important to have the right people take us into the new e-conomy. Now we are looking for a few more to join us.

OPERATIONS MANAGER (Code: OM)

Responsible for the performance of assigned call handling operations teams, monitoring, coaching, and development of operator's performance. With three (3) years related work experience preferably in a large scale call center. Experienced in annual performance appraisals, data analysis, and ACDs. Must be open to schedule flexibility, being on call 24x7, including working overtime as needed.

CALL CENTER SUPERVISOR (Code: CCS)

Responsible for the supervision of a Team of Marketing Associates; ensuring productivity, high work quality and employee morale. With at least one (1) year experience as a Call Center Team Leader / Senior Agent. Must have proven track record in supervising call center operations personnel in a continuous learning environment.

MARKETING ASSOCIATE (Code: MA)

Responsible for the effective handling of inbound / outbound customer service calls for U.S. clients; maintaining high productivity and quality performance levels. Graduate of any four *(4)* or five *(5)*-year college course. Must be willing to work on flexible shifts; options for day and/or night shifts are available. Excellent English communication skills *(both oral and written)* and working knowledge in basic computer applications are required.

TRAINING & QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER (Code: TQAM)

Responsible for organizing, coordinating, and overseeing all aspects of training and quality assurance. With three (3) years related work experience preferably in a large scale call center. Experienced in quality assurance functions such as defining problems, collecting data, establishing facts, drawing valid conclusions, and interpreting an extensive variety of technical instructions.

CALL CENTER TRAINER (Code: CCT)

Responsible for facilitating call center training programs; and on-the-job training sessions. With at least one (1) year experience as a Trainer, preferably in customer service. Working knowledge of training curriculum design preferred. Excellent English communication skills *(oral and written)* and working knowledge in basic computer applications are required.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST (Code: QAS)

Responsible for monitoring including providing reports to management and verbal feedback to operators. With six (6) months related work experience in operating a monitoring system's capabilities while analyzing and scoring the details of monitored calls.

FACILITIES MANAGER (Code: FM)

Responsible for managing all facilities and administrative support staff to ensure efficient operations and security of the center. With at least (3) year recruitment work related experience. Must have experience in managing a staff for procurement, inventory management, general maintenance, and security administration.

ACCOUNTING MANAGER (Code: AM)

Responsible for the administration and implementation of all accounting policies and procedures pertaining to financial accounts and control, payroll management, budget monitoring, fund management, and cash flow. With five (5) years related work experience. Must be fully-operational in performing financial analysis and reporting, cash flow statements, and taxation / payroll procedures, in addition to accounting systems implementation. Experience in using Microsoft Business Solutions Software is an advantage.

ePERFORMAX
CONTACT CENTERS

Wanted:

- Human Resources Director
- Human Resources Manager
- Recruitment Supervisor
- Recruitment Associate
- HR Psychometrician
- LAN Administrator
- Senior Site Technician
- Technical Specialist

If you're looking to build your career — then join our world.

ePERFORMAX, a multinational, award-winning contact center servicing both local and U.S. clients, is now offering exciting career opportunities. Through the ePERFORMAX Training Center, we provide comprehensive courses to build your skills so you can excel in one of our many professional positions. We're proud to be a member of the Transnational Diversified Group (TDG), a family of multinational companies with operations here in the Philippines for over 27 years. With ePERFORMAX and TDG, you're not just getting a job, you're building a career.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR (Code: HRD)

Responsible for the over-all planning and direction of all HR activities; providing leadership in Recruitment Management, Compensation and Benefits Administration, Labor Relations, Organizational Development, HR Systems, and Employee Welfare. With at least seven (7) years related work experience in a customer service environment. Excellent English communication skills (*oral and written*) are required.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER (Code: HRM)

Responsible for planning and implementation of all HR policies and procedures pertaining to rewards and remuneration, labor relations, organizational development, and employee welfare and benefits. With five (5) years related work experience in labor laws, benefits administration, HR systems, and employee development. Experience in using Microsoft Business Solutions Software is an advantage.

RECRUITMENT SUPERVISOR (Code:RS)

Responsible for providing management assistance to HR Director in the implementation of recruitment and manpower lanning programs that will ensure steady supply of potential top-caliber candidates for hiring. With at least two (2) years related work experience. Excellent English communication skills (*oral and written*) are required.

RECRUITMENT ASSOCIATE (Code: RA)

Responsible for sourcing, interviewing, testing, and background checking of applicants. With at least (1) year recruitment work experience preferably from a customer-oriented firm or recruitment agency. Excellent English communication skills (oral and written) are required.

HR PSYCHOMETRICIAN (Code: HRP)

Responsible for the actual administration of IQ, EQ, and other psychological tests (conduct and interpretation). Graduate of BS Psychology, with at least six (6) months related work experience. Excellent English communication skills *(both oral and written)* and working knowledge in basic computer applications are required. Applicants accredited with local testing centers shall be given preference.

LAN ADMINISTRATOR (Code: LAN)

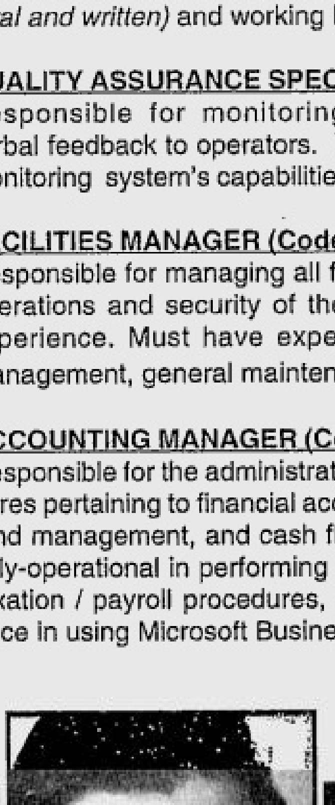
Responsible for the maintenance and installation of all LAN workstations and infrastructure; ensuring all security access levels are in accordance with MCI's security procedures (MSP). Must be a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP), with at least two (2) years related work experience. Must be fully-operational in servers, operating systems, Internet Web Ticketing System, and LAN infrastructure with switches and wireless components.

SENIOR SITE TECHNICIAN (Code: SST)

Responsible in the planning and implemention of new hardware and software installations, including administration and troubleshooting of networks, switches, and security systems. Must be fully-operational in switching, and signaling technologies, transmission media networks, channel banks, and WAN / LAN and ISN architecture and hardware.

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST (Code: TS)

Responsible for performing daily corrective maintenance of current center floor issues; and reporting of floor status to other center units. Installs, maintains, and monitors telecom and networking equipment within the operations center. Must be fully-operational in trouble restoration on transmission equipment, and cross-connections for voice and data circuits within the WAN / LAN Networks.



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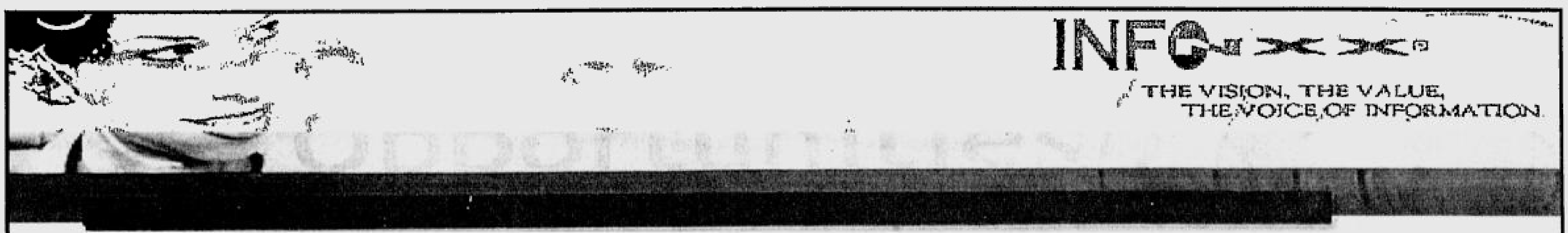

We invite qualified individuals who would want to be part of the world's biggest Directory Assistance provider and lead in its unstoppable expansion!!! We are calling out to people who thrive in excellence, opportunities, and customer service. We are looking for high-potential leaders who can be part of our winners' circle!!!

OPERATIONS

Assistant Call Center Manager – must be able to manage a team of managers who provide support and development to CSRs. Managerial experience is imperative and openness to shifting schedules is required

Team Manager – able to lead, manage, coach, motivate, and track the development and performance of CSRs, assist in meeting all performance goals and manage the call center floor. Must have at least 1 year experience in managing/supervising a customer service set up.

Quality Assurance Team Manager – assure quality performance through monitoring customer calls, then give concise, and accurate feedback and coaching to Quality Assurance Coordinators, CSRs, Trainers, and Team Managers.

Workforce Analyst – must be able to monitor call volumes and staffing/schedule needs to ensure that established service levels are met. Must have experience with TCS, Agent Power, RTA, Aspect, and Microsoft Excel.

Trainer – will teach and develop new employees to become Customer Service Representatives (CSRs), and conduct on-going training for existing CSRs, and develop new training materials. Must have prior training or teaching experience, preferably in Customer Service industries.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ACCOUNTING

Recruiter – will work with the leaders of every department to establish and implement a recruiting strategy. He/she will have the ability to recruit for a variety of positions using innovative approaches in recruiting and appropriate tools. Must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science, Human Resource Management/related courses, and prior Human Resources or recruiting experience. Experience in Psychometrics is an advantage but not required.

Assistant Recruiter – will manage testing/interview schedules and the Recruitment database. Must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science, Human Resource Management/related courses, and prior Human Resources or recruiting experience.

Accounting Lead/Administrator – will assist the Accounting Manager manage the Accounting and Bookkeeping activities of the department. Must be a Certified Public Accountant and have at least 5 years experience in supervising/managing an Accounting department preferably in a Call Center/IT industry.

Timekeeping Assistant – will assist the Payroll Coordinator in the timekeeping function of the Payroll Process. Must have at least 1 year experience in timekeeping and payroll systems, preferably in a large local or multinational company.

Facilities Administrator – will plan, coordinate, control and organize the facility management activities of the call center including the security, janitorial, and other contracted services. Must have at least a bachelor's degree in Engineering/related courses and experience in facilities management.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Network Operations Center Engineer – first line of support using basic trouble shooting skills for phone calls and network monitoring pages. Must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Computer Science, Data Communications and have worked for at least 1 year in a call center/related industry.

Systems Administrator – in-charge of System and Network administration, documentation, troubleshooting, disaster prevention, and recovery. Must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/related fields, and working experience as a manager/supervisor in Systems and Network services..

Helpdesk Analyst – responsible in fielding, logging, and providing first level support to users and coordinate all other issues associated with the call canter's use of technology. Must have at least 2 years experience with LAN/WAN voice and data networks including VOIP, support voice and data network hardware, common desktop hardware, and OS.

Technical Support Engineer – in-charge of maintenance of workstation, notebooks, network switches, and printers within the company's area. Must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/related courses

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Management Job Fair

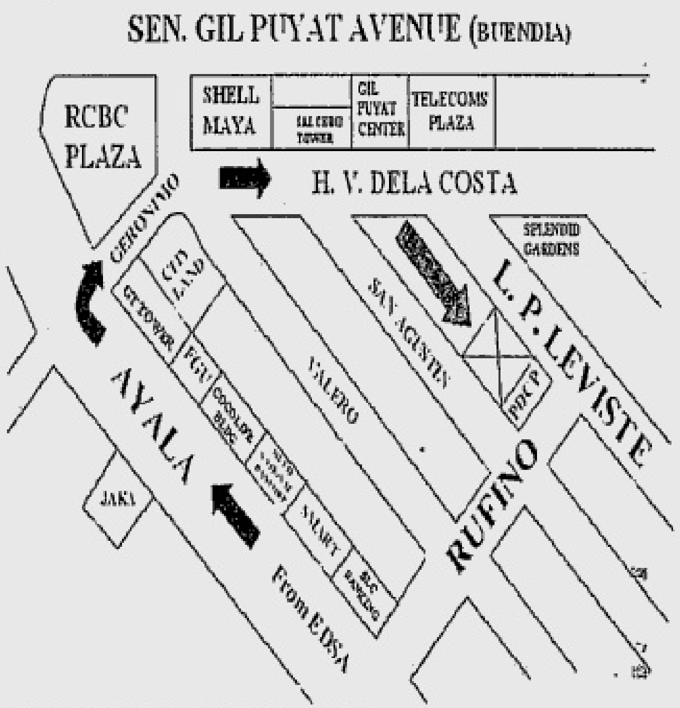
Where: 22nd Floor at the Peak Tower, 107 L. P. Leviste Street Salcedo Village Makati City

When : September 13, 2003

To join, just cut out this advertisement and bring it together with your Comprehensive Resume with photo

Program for the Management Job Fair

10:00AM – Welcome Address
11:00AM – 1st Presentation by NOC/Helpdesk
1:00PM – 2nd Presentation by Training Department
2:00PM – 3rd Presentation by I. T. Services Department
3:00PM – 4th Presentation by Operations Department
4:00PM – 5th Presentation by Accounting Department
5:00PM – 6th Presentation by Human Resources



INFONXX (Philippines), Inc. 11th Flr. RCBC Plaza Tower 2, Ayala Ave., cor Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati City E-mail address: ph_jobs@infonxx.com; Tel. No. (+632)755-1600

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Consultation Coordination Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Senior Project Facilitation Specialist, Office of the Special Project Facilitator (OSPF).

The position is responsible for providing administrative, analytical and technical support in the implementation of the new ADB Accountability Mechanism for ADB-assisted projects. Information on the new ADB Accountability Mechanism, including the OSPF, is available on the ADB homepage at http://www.adb.org.

Description of Responsibilities

- Conducting preliminary review of complaints received by ensuring that these are within the scope of the consultation phase and do not fall under any of the exclusions stated in the Board paper on the establishment of a new ADB accountability mechanism;
- Facilitating effective conduct of review of complaints by checking the eligibility requirements and ensuring completeness of the contents of complaints;
- Ensuring the preparation of comprehensive report on the review of the complaint including its disposition and resolution, monitoring and reporting on the status of these complaints;
- Ensuring that the procedural steps and proposed time frames for the consultation process are observed and monitored;
- Ensuring the availability, accuracy and efficient retrieval of information needed for the review, analysis, and monitoring of complaints received;
- Assisting in selection and engagement of consultants required to assist the Special Project Facilitator (SPF) in carrying out his/her work, including follow-up on contract variations and reporting requirements;
- Maintaining web site and ensuring that documents and events are updated regularly, including maintenance of the registry of complaints;
- Collating, preparing and finalizing materials for annual reports and other publications, including arranging their publication;
- Collecting information in suitable form for publication of brochures and information materials relating to the consultation phase for public dissemination and conducting public outreach and coordinating with the Office of the Compliance Review Panel (OCRP);
- Collating internal and external experiences of problem-solving to be fed back into ADB operations, and providing the information to OCRP and coordinating with OCRP;
- Participating in missions, if required, assisting in consultation processes, and preparing back-to-office and other reports;
- Organizing seminars and related workshops for discharge of functions of OSPF, including public outreach;
- Assisting in the preparation and implementation of the OSPF budget and coordinating with OCRP; and
- Performing any other duties as may be required for the administrative functioning of OSPF.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- A university degree in Management, Liberal Arts, Economics or related fields;
- At least seven (7) years of relevant experience;
- Ability to take a body of data and information, and organize the component ideas into a logical sequence for written presentation;
- Knowledge and understanding of the operations, project cycle, policies and procedures, and related matters of multilateral development and financing agencies;
- Good conceptual and analytical skills;
- Proven ability to identify issues and relevant facts;
- Good interpersonal skills, with ability to liaise and work effectively with staff, Management and Board of Directors and with external clients, member governments, executing agencies and civil society;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (word processing, spreadsheets, and graphics); and
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N003-097(3)-OSPF** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp** to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org** by **12 September 2003**. External applicants who have responded to this position advertised earlier on the ADB web site need not resubmit their applications. Their applications will be considered together with applications received in response to this advertisement.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

A Subsidiary of a Japanese Company
is in need of

PROJECT SITE ENGINEERS

Qualifications:

- Hardworking and responsible, Male, 22-35 years old
- **ENGINEERING** course graduate, preferably Civil or Mechanical Engineering
- Computer literate and good English proficiency
- Willingness to be assigned at Project Sites
- Job experience in Construction or installation of grouts and other adhesives is an advantage, but not necessary.

Qualified applicants please send in your detailed resumé and certified true copy of transcript of records with passport size picture to:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
Unit I #753 Quirino Hi-way, San Bartolome
Novaliches, Quezon City Philippines
Tel. No. (02) 417-6940 Tel/Fax No.: (02) 419-4918

E-mail: atcpphils@pacific.net.ph

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Our company, an importer and exclusive distributor of several tires and motor oil brand offers a competitive package to the successful candidate for the position of:

Sales Officer

- 25-35 years old;
- With productive experience in the field of selling consumer items;
- Honest and hardworking;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Must have valid driver's license.

If you think you are the person we are looking for, please send your resumé with picture and transcript of records to:

TASCO, INC.
#70 20th Avenue, Murphy, Quezon City
Tel. No. 911-6207; 437-8638

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Is currently in need of **Accountants (2)** under Contract of Service with the following qualifications:

- **Certified Public Accountant with at least 2 years experience in the same capacity**
- **Preferably with background in government accounting**

Interested applicants are required to submit an application letter together with an updated resumé and 2 x 2 ID picture addressed to:

The Executive Director
National Commission for Culture and the Arts
633 NCCA Bldg., Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila
Thru: Marlene Ruth S. Sanchez
Administrative Officer V

Deadline of application is on September 12, 2003

We are an established manufacturing company engaged in specialty building materials and construction chemicals and we are in need of:

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Qualifications:

- Male or Female
- College Graduate (Preferably Civil Engineering or Architecture)
- Experience in the construction & building industry is an advantage
- Willing to undergo training
- With allowance and incentives

Send resumé with 2x2 picture to:

QC 2003-76
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
891 Aurora Boulevard cor.
Oxford St., Cubao, Quezon City
or e-mail us with 2x2 picture at hrd@dly.ph

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- With excellent communication skills;
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Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Let's Study in Japan

From
the People of Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2004-2005

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree only (2 -2.5 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   - *2-1. (for public sector)*
     - Public Administration (8 persons)
     - Economics (7 persons)
     - Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   - *2-2. (for public and private sectors)*
     - Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Qualification Requirements

1) Nationality: Filipino
2) Age. Must be below 35 years old ([illegible] April 1, 2004)
3) Academic background:
Applicants should have bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields of study, except for ICT field. For the applicants for ICT field, bachelor degree in ICT or equivalent is required.
4) Working experience (as of April 1, 2004)
At least 2 years of working experience and presently employed
5) English language proficiency level
IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 (CBT 213) or above is required
6) Military personnel are not eligible to apply
7) Currently or in the past, those who have been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree are not eligible to apply.
8) Applicants should be physically and mentally fit to complete the course within its duration
9) Successful candidates shall attend full-time preparatory Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2004

Application

- Applicants must complete Application Documents.
- Application Documents are distributed at
  - JICE JDS Project Office, or
  - can be downloaded at http://www.jice.org/english/

Selection Procedures

-The First Selection
Submitted application forms will be examined by Japanese University Professors in Japan.

SCS Interview
Successful candidates of the 1st selection process should undergo SCS Interview.

-The Second Selection
-Applicants will sit for English proficiency test in early January 2004.

-The Third Selection
-Applicants will undergo the Technical Interview by Japanese University Professors in early February 2004.
-Applicants will be required to sit for basic mathematics test on this stage.

-The Fourth Selection
-Applicants will undergo the Comprehensive Interview in late February 2004.
-Applicants will be required to undergo a medical examination at a designated hospital.

Closing Date for Application

At 17:00hrs on 31 October 2003

Where to submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, postage or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, please contact:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines
*Unit 2008, 88 Corporate Center, Valero corner Sedeno Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
*TEL: 02-757-4990
*Official Web Site: http://www.jice.org/english/

Executing Agency

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Special Committee on Scholarships (SCS)

URGENT RECRUITMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in need of a TRAVEL ADMINISTRATOR who will be under the overall direction and immediate guidance of the Assistant Resident Representative for Administration of UNDP, and will closely monitor and oversee the travel agency and preferred carrier performance in relation to all the client UN Agencies in order to ensure the highest level of performance and service quality in pursuit of the thrusts and objectives of Common Services for Travel.

- Oversee the activities of the in-house travel agency through constant coordination with the supervisor to ensure that all travel-related requirements of UN agencies are duly served in the most efficient and effective manner by:
  - Continuously reviewing process flows and implement improvements based on results of performance reviews and customer feedback.
  - Institute quality control processes to ensure accurate, complete, and timely service.
- Regularly monitor the competitiveness of the preferred carrier rates relative to other prices, promotions, and new products offered in the travel market, in order to negotiate the lowest rates ensuring that UN Agencies get the best value possible.
- Benchmark with other agencies e.g. WHO, ADB, WB, regarding market practices, new technologies, and trends in travel services, and further analyze to make the appropriate recommendations for UN agencies.
- Conduct periodic performance evaluation activities to ensure compliance of the travel agency to the contracted obligations, as well as, to maintain and continually improve the quality of service.
- Coordinate with the supervisor of the travel agency to ensure that all reportorial requirements by the various agencies are accomplished and submitted on time.
- Serve as the travel operations arm of the UN Agency system by handling or overseeing the following common activities
  - Travel authorization processing (manual forms only)
  - Travel documentation
  - Provide information on the various visa requirements of the various embassies and consulates
  - Arrange for airport meet and greet desk for VIPs
  - Coordinate logistics for events
- Monitor and evaluate on a weekly basis the status of the management fees maintained and updated by the travel agent.
- Conduct and facilitate regular coordinating meetings with all the agencies to report and resolve any issues encountered or propose improvement programs in the course of the arrangement implementation.

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Tourism, Management, Accounting, or related fields
- 5 years experience and Knowledge in the travel industry
- Computer literate with extensive knowledge of Windows-based applications
- Excellent interpersonal skills with an ability to deal with people at all levels
- Well-developed organizational, analytical, planning, negotiating, and problem-solving skills
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills

The selected candidate will receive a salary depending on his/her background and work experience.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ and send to:

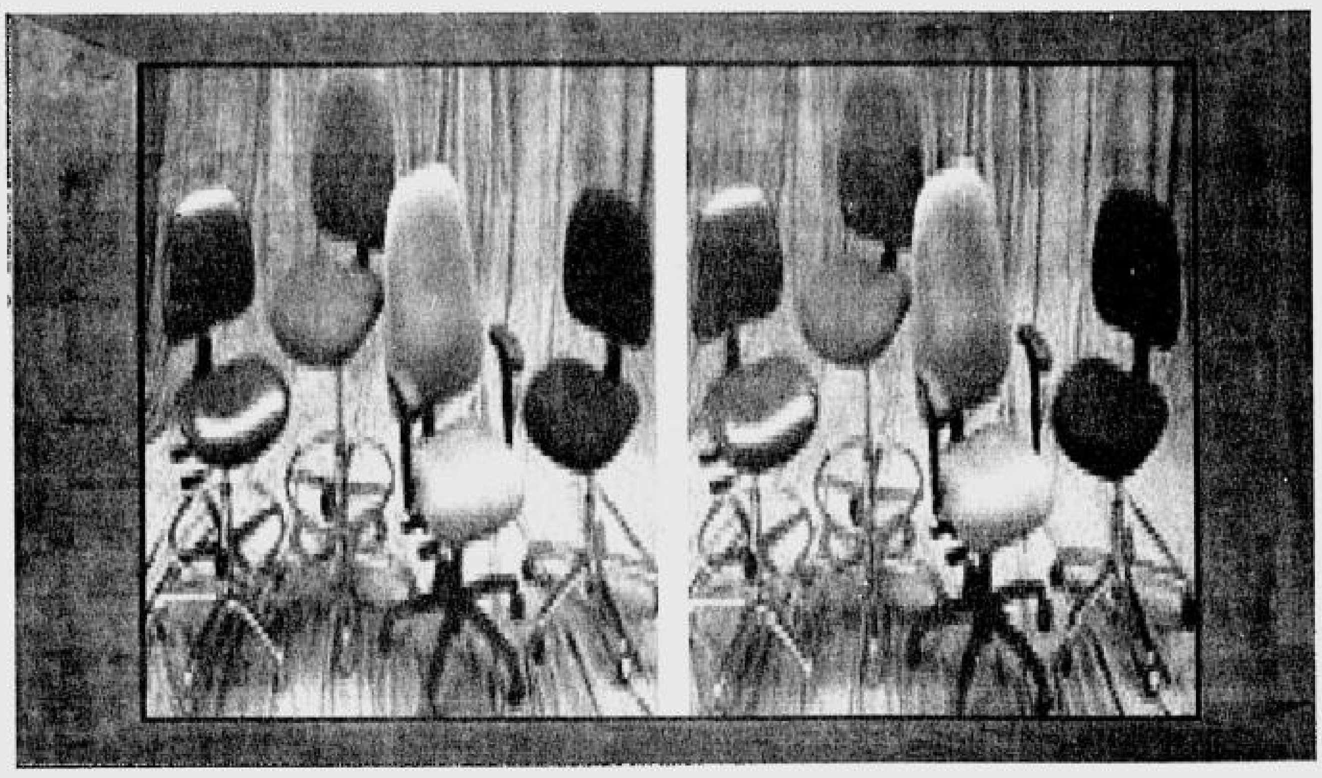
Personnel Unit
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Bldg.
106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City

indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 19 SEPTEMBER 2003. Kindly note that only completed P11 forms will be reviewed.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post.

Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

It's not about the great frame nor is it about the wonderful chairs.



It's about great vacancies and wonderful opportunities in Ambergris.

CAREER FAIR FOR UPPER MANAGEMENT

PLEASE JOIN US THIS
WED AND THURS
SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2003
(WED-THURS)
41/F MAGELLAN FUNCTION HALL,
DISCOVERY SUITES,
ORTIGAS CENTER,
PASIG CITY
from **8AM-12PM** and
BE IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEWED.

Operations Managers
Assistant Operations Manager

Candidate must have 2-3 years experience in managing an operation department. You will be responsible for managing the customer service and call center departments involving activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customer.

Training Manager/ Organizational Development Manager

Develop, facilitate and deliver high caliber training classes to all levels of employees within the company. You must have 2-3 years experience in customer and/or Organizational Development.

Quality Assurance Manager

Partner with managers, trainers, and supervisors to advise of specific training needed based on group and individual quality monitoring trends. Assist in coaching and developing associates using the principles of trend analysis and behavioral focus aiming toward continuous improvement.

Team Captains

You will be the first line supervisor of a team of CIAs. Candidate must possess a minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from any industry; call center experience is a big plus. Willing to work shifts is a must.

Ambergris Solutions

31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
www.ambergrissolutions.com
recruitment@ambergrissolutions.com

AIRLINE BUSINESS INDUSTRY

An expanding Ground Handling firm engaged in the Airline Business Industry has excellent career prospects for the following positions:

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS

(Passenger Services/Cargo Services)

- Male or Female, 20 to 25 years old
- At least 5'3" in height
- College Graduate
- Service oriented, willing to learn new skills
- Good moral character, presentable appearance
- Good in English both oral and written
- Smart and enthusiastic
- With high sense of responsibility
- Willing to work on shift schedule, weekends and holidays
- Computer literate
- With general salesmanship abilities
- With experience is an advantage

OPERATIONS AGENT

- Male or Female
- College Graduate
- Presentable appearance
- Good Knowledge in geography
- Computer literate
- Good in English both in oral and written
- Good mathematical understanding
- With high sense of responsibility
- Service oriented
- Has the ability to deal with people
- Willing to work on night shift schedule, weekends and holidays
- Maintain good performance under stress
- With experience is an advantage

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS/ EQUIPMENT MECHANICS

- At least 3 to 5 years driving experience
- With professional Driver's license
- In good physical condition, good eyesight
- Willing to work on shift schedule, weekends and holidays
- Service oriented
- Good moral character, high sense of responsibility
- With experience in heavy equipments is an advantage
- College Graduate

Please send your resumé with contact telephone number and ID picture to:

P.O. Box 7764
Domestic Airport Post Office
Domestic Road
Pasay City, Metro Manila

GenAsia Biotech L.L.C. would like to invite interested candidates to apply for vacancies for one of our principals:

smith&nephew

ACCOUNTANT
- Male or Female with Accounting Background-preferably CPA
- Minimum 3 years experience in similar field, experience in Multinational Co
- High computer literacy and ability to work under pressure
- Responsibility: General Accounting

ACCOUNTS MANAGER
- Male or Female with Financial Management background-preferably CPA
- Minimum 5 years experience in similar field experience in Multinational Co.
- High computer literacy and has ability to work under pressure
- Experience: Budgeting, Forecasting, Working Capital Management as well as Profit/Cost centre management

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
- Female with 3-5 years experience in similar field, preferably in multinational company
- High computer literacy, ability to work under pressure
- Responsibility: Secretarial duties, Efficient and timely processing of Management Reports and Analysis work. Provide H.R. and administrative support

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (MEDICAL / SURGICAL)
- Male or Female preferably with a Bachelor of Science degree (Medical or Biomed/ Engineering) with 3-5 years experience in dynamic environment preferably in Multinational Co
- Ability to build and maintain business relationship with senior medical consultants and purchasing staff
- Drivers licence and open to extensive travelling

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
- Male or Female preferably with a Bachelor of Science degree (Nursing/ Chemistry/Biology) with 2 years experience in dynamic environment preferably in Multinational Co
- Knowledge of logistics and freight operations an advantage
- Responsibility: Handling customer profiles, complaints and enquiries

ALL APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Excellent presentation and communication skills
- Results oriented
- Excellent planning and organisational skills
- Team player

PLEASE MAIL/EMAIL YOUR 2 x 2 PHOTOGRAPH AND CURRICULUM VITAE (CV) / BIO-DATA TO:
GenAsia Biotech L.L.C
UG41 Cityland Pioneer, 128 Pioneer St. Mandaluyong City 1550
E-mail: genasia@surfshop.net.ph
PHONE-IN ENQUIRIES/FOLLOW-UP WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED IN DUE COURSE

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A MULTI-NATIONAL CLUB ORGANIZATION is in need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professional to occupy the following position:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Male or Female, with pleasing personality
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable school
- Must have relevant working experience in the same capacity
- Good communications skills, can relate and interact well with various levels of people, willing to listen and learn, mature and organized

Qualified candidates are requested to submit their letter of application, together with their comprehensive and detailed resume indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, telephone numbers and other credentials to:

P.O. BOX 7748
Domestic Airport Post Office
Metro Manila, Philippines

Attention: THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT

---

viper technologies inc

WE WANT YOU!!!

Are you an Account Executive?

POSITION SUMMARY:
- Responsible for sales leads and generation
- Develops accounts relationships through initial presentation, liaisons, acceptance of project and continuing accounts management.
- Occasional attendance at regional and national sales meetings and trade shows which may include weekend travel
- Travel as necessary to cover all locations for named accounts
- Management of expenses within budget

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Willing to work in a fun yet challenging work environment.
- Strong presentation skills, especially ability to engage managerial-level representatives of accounts.
- Ability to motivate and direct efforts of others.
- Successful sales track record with verifiable earnings.
- Familiarity with advertising industry and/or work experience with Internet related software or systems is a plus.
- References required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
- Part of the the strategic planning team and implementor of plans to generate revenue and revenue growth.
- Proactively work with peers and partners in attaining objectives.
- Identify projects and opportunities for VTi solutions and coordinate sales resources as needed.
- Identify and build strategic partner relationships
- Build relationships and value proposition at the managerial level of target accounts.
- Position VTi as the interactive agency standard at targeted accounts

VIPER TECHNOLOGIES INC. Unit 1003 Antel Global Corporate Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
Email: jobs@vipertechonline.com

The Real Estate Affiliate of one of the country's leading Business Groups is in need of a

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications:

- Experience in taxation of Real Estate sales
- Knowledgeable in accounting principles and practices, and financial reporting
- From a reputable school; is a CPA
- Honest, hardworking, and trustworthy
- Must possess excellent communication skills particularly in English
- The ability to supervise/administer staff will be an advantage

Please send application letter with detailed Resumé and 2 x 2 picture addressed to:

Box MN-2047 Classified Division, PDI Bldg.
Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.,
Makati City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
HEMODIALYSIS NURSES

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old
- Must be a Registered Nurse (RN)
- With pleasing personality and above average communication skills
- Experience in DIALYSIS is an advantage but not a must
- Must be hardworking and possesses good interpersonal skills
- Possibly residents of Quezon City, Muntinlupa City, Las Piñas City, Cavite City, Naic Cavite, Sta. Cruz Laguna, Baliwag Bulacan, Olongapo, Baguio City or nearby city, towns or municipalities.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to submit or mail their comprehensive resumé with recent ID photo on or before 15 September 2003 to:

PHILIPPINE RENAL CARE

PHILIPPINE RENAL CARE, INC.
3rd Flr. JMT Corporate Center, ADB Ave.
Ortigas Complex, Pasig City

WAKE UP TO A NEW MORNING, DISCOVER GREATER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!!!

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Ambergris Solutions is a leading, Philippine-based provider of offshore customer care solutions to US-based clients in the utilities, IT, travel & hospitality, telecommunications and financial services industries. At Ambergris Solutions, people make the difference. The Ambergris revolution begins with a cadre of passionate, committed and thoughtful customer interaction agents (CIA's), who take the work of caring for customers seriously, and who vie to make every customer interaction a source of measurable competitive advantage for the companies Ambergris serves.Our employee partners are committed to transforming the world of customer care. **Come join the revolution ! ! ! NOW!!!**

Inbound Sales Associates

Take inbound sales calls and respond to queries regarding various computer related products. Close the deal and make some money! Background in I.T. software and computer equipment is a big plus! Willing to work shifts, including graveyard.

Customer Interaction Associates

The average Ambergris CIA is either a fresh graduate, from a top Philippine university, or a recent graduate, with 1-2 years of work experience. Fluent in English, both in oral and written communication. Proficient in computer applications. Willing to work in shifts, including graveyard.

Team Captains

You will be the first line supervisor of a team of CIAs. Candidate must possess a minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from any industry; call center experience is a big plus. Willing to work shifts is a must.

Operations Managers Assistant Operations Manager

Candidate must have 2-3 years experience in managing an operation department. You will be responsible for managing the customer service and call center departments involving activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customer.

Recruitment Officer

Proven experience with executive search firm and/or human resources

HR Associate

Set up interviews to qualify candidates. Impeccable English required. Previous HR experience required.

Administrative Assistants

Provide administrative support to the Management Team; Make and receive internal and external calls for the immediate head; Maintain files on confidential correspondence, memoranda and reports

Training Manager for Organizational Development

Develop, facilitate and deliver high caliber training classes to all levels of employees within the company. You must have 2-3 years experience in customer and/or Organizational Development/Human Resources.

Quality Assurance Manager

Partner with managers, trainers, and supervisors to advise of specific training needed based on group and individual quality monitoring trends. Assist in coaching and developing associates using the principles of trend analysis and behavioral focus aiming toward continuous improvement.

Trainer for Accent Neutralization

Conduct and facilitate training seminars focusing on accent neutralization. Must have previous experience. Familiarity with American speech & culture an advantage.

Come to our **JOB FAIR** on
SEPTEMBER 8-12, 2003 (M-F)
from **10AM-7PM** and **BE IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEWED.**

Ambergris Solutions

31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
www.ambergrissolutions.com
recruitment@ambergrissolutions.com

ITT Industries
Engineered for life

ITT Industries -- Goulds Pumps, a U.S. based multinational company engaged in the assembly, testing and distribution of pumps and associated equipment for the Asia Pacific Region is looking for an experienced and qualified candidate for:

AREA SALES MANAGER

Promote, sell and secure new business accounts in established territory. Demonstrate products or services and assist prospects in selection of those best suited to their needs. Familiarize established accounts with new products, services and development. Inform company of competitive sales techniques, product and services.

Requirements:
- B.S. Degree Required
- 3 - 7 yrs. of related industry experience
- Knowledge in basic computer skills,
- With strong communication skills, interpersonal skills, must be able to understand technical concepts, and presentation skills, ability to train and mentor customer personnel.

Competencies/Traits:
- Strong communication skills
- Must be customer focused
- Dependability
- Strong enthusiasm for work – must be a motivated individual
- Goal oriented
- Organizational Skills
- With Analytical thinking

CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR

Ensures a clean order entry for all customers under specific areas of responsibility.

Requirements:
- B.S. Degree Required
- 1 year of related experience
- Knowledge in basic computer skills,
- With strong communication skills and interpersonal skills.

Competencies/Traits:
- Strong communication skills
- Dependability
- Show confidence & courage to stand by convictions
- Strong enthusiasm for work – must be a motivated individual
- Goal oriented

Interested applicants are invited to write in with detailed resumé, current and expected salary and one recent non-returnable photograph to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
ITT Industries, Goulds Pumps, Inc.
#12 Ring Road, Light Industry & Science Park of the Phils. II
Brgy. Lamesa, Calamba City Laguna, 4027
Email add: lyn.peres@fluids.ittind.com

(All resumés will be treated with strictest confidence. Only short listed candidates will be notified.)

THE INTERNET COMPANY OF PLDT
infocom

is looking for qualified individuals to fill in the following positions:

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Qualifications:
- > Male or Female
- > College graduate of any 4-year business related course
- > At least 2-3 years experience in field sales preferably gained from an IT industry, Telco or other related industries with strong emphasis on presentation skills
- > Knowledgeable in Account Management of Distributors and Retail outlets
- > Must thrive under pressure
- > MBA units is a plus
- > Residence must be within their assigned territories
- > Must be fluent in oral and written English

The successful candidates shall be responsible on prospecting, client visits and close of sales. He/she shall be responsible for the sales, distribution and merchandising of Prepaid Internet cards on his assigned territory. (NCR / Central Luzon)

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Qualifications:
- > Male or Female
- > College graduate of any 4-year business related course
- > 1 or 2 years experience in consumer and field sales
- > Willing and able to do field work
- > Residence must be within their assigned territories

The successful candidates shall be responsible for merchandising, sales and distribution of WS cards in their assigned territories. (Baguio, La Union and Dagupan / Batangas and Lucena)

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Qualifications:
- > Graduate of BSECE, CoE, Computer Science or any related course, with good scholastic records
- > Experienced Sales Engineer from 2-3 IT industry, specifically SI Company
- > Preferably with outstanding sales successes, technical accomplishments and references
- > Must be sharp, honest and energetic, with unusual social ease, a solid commitment to follow-through, and a good sense of humor.
- > Highly experienced in project management and documentation
- > Must have strong and positive problem solving skills; able to identify problems and implement corrective processes
- > Has wide background on various operating systems and TCP/IP protocols
- > Result-oriented, good interpersonal skills.
- > Fluent in oral and written English is preferred.

The successful candidate shall be responsible for selling VAS to non-infocom subscribers like ADSL and other ISP's subscriber. He/she shall also be responsible in implementation and support of the projects defined. The Consulting engineer will also train the CCG for new services available. Furthermore, he/she shall be responsible for providing updates on existing VAS.

Interested applicants may send their resumés with 2x2 colored picture to:

The Human Resources
INFOCOM Technologies, Inc.
3rd Floor PLDT Tower I, 6799 Ayala Avenue,
Makati City
e-mail: jobs@info.com.ph
http://www.info.com.ph

A highly-reliable sign-making is in need of

GRAPHICARTIST (2)

for its 2003 expansion

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- At least one year experience in large format printing
- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop 6 & Coreldraw 10

Apply personally w/ bio-data at:

176 Apo cor. Malaya Sts. (near Retiro), Quezon City
Look for Mr. Sonny Mesina Tel. No. 740-0675

Businessmaker®
ACADEMY

The newest and fastest growing Continuous Adult Educational Center is looking for immediate Part-Time Resource Speakers with at least 5 years experience in any of the following areas

Accounting/Tax
Customer Service
Finance/Investing
Events Mgmt
Inventory/Collection
Mktg/Sales
Entrepreneurship
Leadership
Xmas Arts & Crafts

Please send your resumes to:
Address: Suite 1503A West Tower PSE Bldg (Tektite),
Ortigas Center Pasig City M.M. · Fax 687-4845
Email: careers@businessmaker-academy.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING ! ! !

GENERAL SECRETARY

Female, 22-30 yrs old knowledgeable in Word, Excel, Powerpoint, good communication skills, can work under pressure w/ minimum supervision, highly organized, & willing to work long hours. 7 days a week

PR ASSISTANT

Female, highly computer literate must have excellent communication & managerial skills, must be able to write articles, press releases, communication materials & willing to work long hours, 7 days a week
Submit comprehensive resume w/ 2x2 picture to:
6th Flr. Dominion Bldg. 833 Arnaiz Ave., Mkt City

MICROCADD
TECHNOLOGIES
5th Floor Dona Consolacion Bldg 562 Gen. Santos Ave
Araneta Center Cubao (Cor. + facing Farmers Plaza I)

The Country's premiere CAD center is in need of...

CAD Instructors
([illegible] with Architecture or C.E background)

STAAD Instructors

Bring your resume with picture

KSEARCH
ASIA CONSULTING, INC.

Career Breakthrough Opportunities!

Our client – a highly dynamic and growing organization with a value-based culture, regional / global operation, multi-cultural customer base, and empowered workforce – **has urgent need** for highly motivated Accountants under the following categories:

I. Accountant (Code 001)

The position will handle any of the following processes: Accounts Payable master records, processing and payment of vendor invoices / employee claims, processing of automatic payments, preparation of tax reports/payments, and analysis of disbursements related accounts.

Candidates must have the following qualifications:

- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- **Two years experience in accounting work in multinational settings, or business process outsourcing organizations, or banks**
- Customer focused and performance driven
- Must have good communication skills, can relate to people from different cultural background
- A good team player who is self-reliant with good aptitude for support work
- Strong self-motivation and results-orientation

II. Accountant (Code 002)

The position will handle any of the following processes: general ledger account analysis, fixed assets accounting, treasury accounting, and bank reconciliation.

Candidates must have the following qualifications

- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- **Two years experience in external/internal audit or exposure in accounting work in multinational settings**
- Customer focused and performance driven
- Good communication skills , can relate to people from different cultural background
- A good team player who is self-reliant with good aptitude for support work
- Strong self-motivation and results-orientation

III. Accountant (Code 003)

The position will handle the documentation, review, and redesign of Finance and Accounting business processes. In addition, the position will also perform process improvement initiatives, implement regional/global projects, and provide consultancy work to the different business units.

Candidates must have the following qualifications:

- Certified Public Accountant
- **Five years experience in Audit, Finance, Accounting, or Consulting work**
- Customer focused, self starter, and highly driven
- Excellent communication skills, can work in a multi-cultural environment
- A good team player who is self-reliant with good aptitude for support work
- Strong self-motivation and results-orientation
- Willing to travel

Challenging career opportunities and attractive compensation package await the successful candidates. Interested qualified applicants may send their resumes to KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc. c/o Karmeli Kintanar at the 22nd Floor, 139 Corporate Centre Building, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City; or email to kkintanar@ksearch.com.ph; fax at 893-6259.

Applications received before **September 12, 2003** will have an advantage.

IIRR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is a global intermediary development organization working in several countries with the poor and their communities as our partner, enabling them to improve their lives and achieve their full potential. At present, IIRR is seeking to fill the following posts for its program efforts in the Asia region:

Publications Development Officer

The Publications Development Officer will contribute to the work of IIRR in the documentation, packaging and dissemination of good practices through web-based and hard copy publications. This will involve preparation of project proposals, generating relevant resources for production of publications using IIRR's participatory writeshop process and providing technical assistance related to production of reports, brochures, newsletters, and other documents. Candidates should have the following: university degree in multi-media or related field i.e. publishing, production or communication; at least five years relevant experience, preferably in non-profit work environment; demonstrated ability to organize work effectively and work well as part of a team; excellent communication skills; and creative & resourceful.

Health and Nutrition Specialist

The Health and Nutrition Specialist provides leadership in the development and implementation of health and nutrition projects as part of the IIRR's program activities in Asia. The post contributes to the community-based and action learning activities, education & training activities and the publication & communication materials on health and nutrition. The post reports to the Director, Regional Center for Asia. Candidates should have the following: masters degree in public health, nutrition, nursing, or a degree in medicine; at least four years of relevant experience in health and nutrition program planning, monitoring and evaluation within a rural development framework; excellent communication skills; strong analytical skills; demonstrated conceptual and operational skills suited to rural development programs and projects; experience-based knowledge of action research methodologies; familiarity with methods, tools and techniques in participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation; team player and ability to interact with people at different levels; and an ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural work environment, preferably with experience living/working outside of his/her own culture or country.

Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

The Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PPM&E) Officer will ensure the effective and efficient implementation of program activities in Asia through appropriate program design, planning, monitoring and evaluation at the program, project and community levels. The post is responsible for developing, installing and maintaining an M&E system in the Regional Center for Asia that will (1) ensure continuous monitoring of programs and projects toward the attainment of the program/project goals and objectives, and (2) ensure adequate evaluation of all programs/ projects. The PPM&E Officer reports to the Director, Regional Center for Asia. Candidates should have the following: masters degree in evaluation, rural development, development administration, or related social science disciplines; at least four years of relevant experience in program planning, monitoring and evaluation within a rural development framework; strong analytical skills and excellent written and communication skills; operational knowledge on basic research, especially qualitative data management, and basic statistics; demonstrated skills and experience with methods, tools and techniques in participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation; experience-based knowledge of action research methodologies ; a team player and has the ability to interact with people at different levels; and ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural work environment.

Communication Specialist

Reporting to the Head, Publication and Communication Program, the post will contribute to the expanding work of IIRR in the documentation and communication of development learning, and in the production of Information, Education and Communication materials for field development programs. The role will involve documenting experiences from the learning community program as inputs to developing communication strategies and Information, Education and Communication materials (including videos, posters, booklets, pamphlets, brochures, etc.) in support of IIRR's field programs in Asia. The successful candidate should have the following: a degree, preferably master's degree, in Development Communication, Sociology, Rural Development, or any related fields; at least 3 years of comparable work experience in development communication with international development agencies, NGOs or with rural communities; ability to work productively in teams; effective writing and communication skills; and with professional research experience, preferably in action research.

These posts are based in Silang, Cavite. Closing date is September 20, 2003. Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest together with curriculum vitae; contact information; three letters of references with addresses and contact numbers; a recent passport-size photograph; and transcript of records to:

The Human Resources Office
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
Km. 39, Aguinaldo Highway, Silang, 4118, Cavite
Tel: (046) 414-2417; Fax: (046) 414-2420
E-Mail: HumanResources@iirr.org, or visit our website: www.iirr.org

IIRR is an equal opportunity employer.

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iTouchPoint

Directory Assistance Services

We are a high quality provider of Enhanced Directory Assistance, customer services, customer acquisition and technical support services. We ensure long-term partnerships with each of our clients by providing personalization and unprecedented value.
Our aim: Providing strong leadership in the customer service industry.

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**
- **ACCOUNTANTS**
- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**
- **MEDICAL CODING PROFESSIONALS**
- **REGISTERED NURSES**
- **CALL CENTER ANALYSTS**
- **TRAINERS**
- **CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**
- **TECHNICAL SUPPORT STAFF**
- **NETWORK ENGINEERS**
- **CUSTOMER CARE SUPERVISORS**
- **INBOUND SALES ASSOCIATES**
- **CUSTOMER CARE ASSOCIATES (English, Spanish)**

We make it a point to hire only the BEST. If you are an inspiring individual wanting to grab the winning edge.
If you believe in the value of teamwork and excellence then come and join us today!!
Send your resumés **strictly in MS Word format only** to
careers@itouchpoint.com **with the job title as subject** or The Human Resources Dept. iTouchPoint,
22nd Floor, IBM Plaza, Eastwood Cyber Park, Libis, Quezon City 1110 www.itouchpoint.com
We offer above-industry compensation and career development opportunities.

BRANCH HEAD

- Female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year college course with background in marketing or sales
- With at least 2 years of progressive managerial capacity and working experiences preferably gained from an international food chain, hotel set up and fitness centers
- Must possess a strong communication, interpersonal and leadership skills
- Must be flexible, willing to work during weekends and holidays
- Preferably residing in Makati, Alabang and Libis areas

Due to the urgency of position, applicants compensation are requested to apply personally from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The company provides a competitive compensation commensurate to the knowledge, skills and relevant experienced offered by the successful candidate. Please mail or email your resumé with 2x2 picture to:

THE SPA ACROPOLIS
Human Resources Department
#80 Acropolis Center, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue,
Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City 1110
thespa@thespa.com.ph

WANTED/URGENT

MARKETING ASSISTANT

MALE OR FEMALE / AGGRESSIVE / CREATIVE / RESOURCEFUL / WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY / 2-YR. EXPERIENCE IN MARKETING OR ADVERTISING / COMPUTER-LITERATE, WITH WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF MS OFFICE & POWERPOINT, AND PREFERABLY ADOBE PHOTOSHOP & ILLUSTRATOR

GRAPHICS ARTIST

MALE OR FEMALE / DEDICATED, FOCUSED, TEAM PLAYER / 2-YR. EXPERIENCE IN ADVERTISING AND/OR DESKTOP PUBLISHING / WITH WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF MS POWERPOINT, ADOBE PAGEMAKER, PHOTOSHOP & ILLUSTRATOR, MACROMEDIA FLASH, ETC.

COMPENSATION COMMENSURATE TO ABILITY.
PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTION. MARKETING GROUP. REWARDING WORK.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ—INCLUSIVE OF CONTACT NOS.—& FULL-COLOR 2"x 2" PHOTO TO bert_jr@yahoo.com.
(FOR ARTIST APPLICANTS, PLEASE ATTACH WORK SAMPLES)

THE JUNNA GROUP OF COMPANIES

One of the country's leading industrial group with global partners engaged in the business of distribution, industrial services, manufacturing, and research and development, is in need of the following personnel

PURCHASING MANAGER

- Male or Female
- At least 3 years experience in purchasing function
- Technical background and/or know-how is a plus factor
- Graduate of BS Management / BS Industrial Engineering

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Male or Female
- Atleast 3 years experience in general accounting
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

- Male or Female
- At least 2 years experience as Systems Administrator / Specialist
- With working knowledge on Visual Basic application systems, database programming preferably SQL, local area networking and Windows NT server administration

OFFICE CLERK

- Female, with pleasing personality
- With or without working experience
- Graduate of any business course

X-RAY TECHNICIAN

- Male
- With or without experience as NDT X-Ray technician
- Graduate of Non-destructive testing technology course

INVENTORY CONTROL CUSTODIAN

- Male or Female
- With 1 to 2 years experience in warehouse operation
- Graduate of any business course

Attractive remuneration packages will be offered to successful candidates. Interested applicants may hand-carry, mail or e-mail their resume with recent photo and transcript of records to THE HR DEPARTMENT:

JIC BLDG II 2419 Syquia cor. Calderon Sts., Sta. Ana, Manila 1009

E-mail Address	junna@info.com.ph
Telephone no.	563 5508 loc 309

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Médecins Sans Frontieres, a non-profit, international non-governmental humanitarian organization, is now in need for the street children project in Manila:

One (1) Registered NURSE

Qualifications:

- Minimum experience in.
  - Implementation of street-based and/or community-based health strategies with particular focus on reproductive health and/or substance abuse
  - Providing medical consultation and management, health education and counseling
  - Working with children and adolescents
  - Collaborating with government hospitals and health centers for medical referral and networking
- Knowledge in participatory strategies
- Very good communication skills and interpersonal relation skills
- Hardworking and committed to the cause of protecting children's rights
- Research experience and knowledge of EpiInfo software an advantage
- Can work with minimal supervision, a team player and with initiative
- Exposure to non-governmental organization in a multi-cultural setting
- Computer literate

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with a recent 2 x 2 picture are to be mailed and addressed to:

Ms. Milona Osorio Montealegre
Project Coordinator
Street Children Project
Medecins Sans Frontieres
#508 Camia St., Palm Village, Estrella, Makati City
Email: malch-ph@compass.com.ph

Deadline for Submission: September 12, 2003

Announcing the NIIT Global Technology Scholarships on Oracle, Microsoft .NET and Java Technologies.

If you are looking for a career in IT or just seeing IT as an essential tool in your career, here's an opportunity of a lifetime. Presenting the NIIT Global Technology Scholarships leading to internationally recognised certifications.

Highlights of the Scholarships:

The NIIT global Technology Scholarships are open to all, and will be awarded to eligible candidates on the basis of a written examination and an interview. Based on performance, meritorious candidates will be entitled to scholarships ranging from 15% to 100% on tuition fees. These scholarships are brought to you by NIIT, the global IT education and training leader. NIIT has over the last 22 years, armed students, professionals and companies across the world with some of the most relevant and advanced computer skills known to man.

NIIT GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS 2003

The NIIT curriculum combines world-class Fusion Learning methodology, structured courseware and state-of-the-art technologies, all delivered in an easy-to-learn manner. Programs are available for career-seekers and for those who want to enhance their careers through IT.

All this means that you get a distinct advantage to become the preferred choice of employers, anywhere in the world.

IMPORTANT DATES

Entrance test: September 11, 2003
Last date for submission of applications:
September 10, 2003

MODE OF APPLICATION

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Contact NIIT Centres at: Taft, Manila: Mezzanine Level, Joshua Centre, 1428 Taft, Manila (fronting PGH) Tel: 405-0018. **Alabang:** 2/F Dona Marta Bldg., Alabang Zapote Road (fronting Isuzu) Tel.: 775-7001. **Makati:** Lower G/F, Salustiana Ty Bldg., Paseo de Roxas St, opp. Perea St Tel.: 830-3000 **Ortigas:** 2/F Suite 102, Greenrich Mansion, Pearl Drivecorner Lourdes St. Tel.: 689-1189.

GREEN KOREA INC. a newly opened company which specializes in recycling of semiconductors, electronics, communications and computer by products are in need of the following personnel to join our team for the Cavite PEZA Warehouse.

➢ MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Male/Female
- Not more than 35 years old
- With a Degree in Business Studies / Marketing / Management and other related course
- Preferably with 2-3 years experience in the same field
- Excellent in written and verbal communication
- Required skills – computer literate, knows how to drive

➢ ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- Female
- Not more than 27 years old
- Graduate of Business Studies / Ad / Management / Accounting and other related course
- With at least 3 years experience in Clerical / General Administration
- Accounting background is an advantage
- Proficiency in MS office programs

➢ TRADING OFFICER

- Male or Female
- Not more than 35 years old
- With a Degree in Business Studies
- With at least 3 years experience in impex handling
- Proficient in MS office program

➢ DRIVER

- Male
- Not more than 35 years old
- Holder of Professional Driver's License
- At least High School Graduate
- With 5 years driving experience
- Hard working & well mannered
- Knowledge in automotive maintenance is a plus

Interested applicants may mail your comprehensive resumé and letter of application to Unit 3015 West of Ayala Condo., Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City or e-mail demalyrose@yahoo.com or call **Miss Lyn, Tel. 886-4864, 0919-897-2863**

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For further information and application, write to:
FEU - Institute of Education
Nicanor Reyes Street, Manila

Tel. Number : 735-00-43
e-mail: vjerusalem@feu.edu.ph
IE Dean Violeta Jerusalem

ACCREDITED RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM
now accepting applicants
OB-GYN Department
Ospital ng Makati
Deadline: September 24, 2003
Call 882-6379 or 882-6316 Loc. 230

SALES ENGINEER

- Graduate of Electronic Engineer
- Female only w/ license
- Must have experience in dealing with Electric Cooperative companies.

Hanyang Electrical Corp.
Unit 1118 Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Blvd.,
Mandaluyong City. Tel# 9102998

AXA
PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST TO BE PART OF THE FIRST AND THE BEST...

Philippine AXA Life, a joint venture between Metrobank, one of the largest banks in the Philippines, and the AXA Group, one of the world's largest life insurers, is looking for enthusiastic, results-oriented and highly competitive candidates to join its elite BankAssure work force who has preference working or residents of METRO MANILA, OLONGAPO, DAGUPAN, BATANGAS, LAGUNA, PAMPANGA, BAGUIO, BENGUET, LA UNION, BACOLOD and ILOILO.

BANKASSURE AREA MANAGERS (BAM)

The position entails motivating, inspiring and leading a team of professional advisers to meet sales targets by objectively evaluating and assessing performance against agreed standards.

QUALIFICATIONS:

☐ 25 – 40 years old
☐ Must be a college graduate with at least 2 years business experience with a successful track record in sales or customer service environment.
☐ Must have supervisory experience

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES (FE)

The position entails meeting with clients, analyzing their personal financial background, advising them on appropriate action to be taken and concluding the sale of appropriate products and services and a lot of relationship building.

QUALIFICATIONS:

☐ 25 – 40 years old
☐ Must be a College graduate with at least 2 years professional experience with a successful track record not necessarily in the Financial Services Industry
☐ A background in pharmaceutical, airlines, stock trading, real estate, retail sales, banking or insurance will be an advantage

SKILLS & QUALITIES OF THE AREA MANAGER & FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE:

☐ Good interpersonal skills
☐ Excellent oral & written communication skills (Ability to speak Chinese will be an advantage)
☐ Sound analytical / numerical skills
☐ Effective judgment and comprehension
☐ Confident disposition/positive nature & outlook
☐ Ability to listen

Qualified candidates should send their resume, transcript of records and a 2" x 2" photo by Friday, 12th of September 2003 to

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2390, Makati City
or
may.soneja@axa.com.ph or fax: (02) 844-3911

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With more than one million power and environmental control systems installed throughout more than 100 countries, Liebert has more ways to protect and cool sensitive electronics than anyone. Our power protection line offers the broadest range of solutions in the industry, from surge protection and power conditioning to Uninterruptible Power Supplies in off-line, on-line and line-interactive topologies, software and communications. We believe that collaborating with our customers to improve how we build, market and support our products and services is the only way to maintain our world-class standards.

PRODUCT ENGINEER (UPS)

The successful candidates will lead a technical documentation team for UPS products. Will interface with factories who make UPS. Will interface with design engineers on specifications to be put in documentation. Will to travel to China, Italy, and US to get requirements for documentation.

Qualification Guidelines:

- Minimum of four years technical degree from an educational institution or equivalent training/experience.
- Possesses a strong Electrical and Electronics' background with emphasis on UPS products.
- Must possess ability to write and communicate clearly and concisely in English.
- Instructional experience with an emphasis on technical training is preferred.
- PC literate and Internet knowledge.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- Possess a positive attitude.
- Self-motivated and able to work without direct supervision.

AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES AND SUPPORT ENGINEER

The successful candidate will provide technical support over the phone to customers and field service staff and assist other ES&S associates on Liebert precision air conditioning products. Ensure that the information given to our customers is timely and accurate. Assist the Liebert sales offices over the phone in identifying appropriate parts for Liebert unit repair. Provide parts pricing to the sales offices and assist them in placing parts orders that will ensure timely delivery.

Qualification Guidelines:

- Experience working with Liebert or comparable air conditioning products of which three or more years working within a parts and service department. Refrigeration, electrical, and HVAC background with four-year degree in engineering or related technical degree.
- Overall knowledge of old and new environmental products with thorough knowledge of refrigeration basics. Communication and trouble shooting skills as well as a conscientious attitude. High tolerance to stress and a self-starter.
- PC or related skills a must
- Good understanding of Liebert's product documentation system
- Excellent organization skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills a must
- Good written and oral communication skills using the English language
- Ability to prioritize workload and complete multiple tasks in a predetermined time frame

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Interested candidates may apply online through this URL: www.sykes.com or may send or submit comprehensive resume and application including salary & compensation, history and photo at: 28th flr. Robinsons Summit Bldg. Ayala Avenue, Makati City

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Mechanical Design Engineer

Code : MDes

Position Summary

The candidate for this position is will be a member of the Retail Solutions Division engineering team. Responsibilities will include mechanical design for retail solutions that include POS terminal systems, self check-out solutions & barcode scanning devices. Assignments may include additional development tasks outside of these areas including custom engineering engagements or other product development.

Key Responsibilities

- The design and documentation of injection molded plastic parts and the design of sheet metal enclosures for computer equipment
- Stress, tolerance and detailed analyses of mechanical designs
- Provide cost estimates (labor, material) for new product
- Drive and support cost reduction efforts;
- Design review participation,
- Perform trade studies / benchmarking to determine optimal product solution
- System level and component integration/testing
- Provide continuation engineering support to help solve production and customer issues as they arise

Required Skills, Experience & Education

- BS or MS degree in Mechanical Engineering

Desired Skills and Work Experience

- Work experience in related position (Design & Development environment); Stress and Thermal analysis experience
- Pro-E CAD Experience; Any 3rd Generation CAD Experience
- Experience with Pro/Mechanica or other FEA tools
- Stress and Thermal analysis experience
- Experience with developing component level designs
- Scoping new design projects experience & strategic planning
- Project Management, Cost-Reduction Opportunity, Manpower Scheduling

Hardware Development Engineers

Code : HDev

Position Summary

The candidate will be a member of the engineering organization. Responsibilities include providing electrical engineering design support activities for retail solutions that include POS Terminal systems, Self Check-Out solutions (SCOT), RealPrice and Barcode Scanning devices.

Key Responsibilities

- Primary responsibilities include new product development with emphasis on conceptual development, board detail design, system engineering, and UL/EMC/Safety certification testing
- Areas of responsibility will include digital, analog and PC system level design
- Perform trade studies / benchmarking to determine optimal product solution
- New technology/component investigation/tracking
- Generate and maintain product functional specifications
- Drive and support cost reduction efforts,
- Resolve customer issues on current production products
- Support manufacturing build to resolve any technical issues

Required Skills, Experience & Education

- BS or MS degree in EE or ECE

Desired Skills and Work Experience

- Work experience in related position (Design and Development Environment)
- Analog & Digital Design Experience with knowledge in PC architecture
- RF Communication Architecture Knowledge & RF Troubleshooting Skills
- Experience with RF Measuring Equipment,
- PWB (CAD board layout) design experience
- OrCad or Mentor graphics schematic capture
- Power Supply Design experience (is an advantage)

Software Development Engineer

Code : SDev

Position Summary

Responsible for scoping, design, implementation, testing, & systems integration of software components

Key Responsibilities

- Scoping, design, development, testing and system integration of software components
- Design, develop and execute software test plans, procedures, test applications and test cases
- Identify, track and resolve software defects
- Create documentation to assist customer with product installation, configuration and problem diagnosis

Required Skills, Experience & Education

- BS or MS degree in ComSci, EE or CompE
- Experience with one or more of the following operating systems: Microsoft Windows 9X, NT, 2000, and XP, DOS, Linux, and OS/2
- At least 2-3 years of relevant or related experience in C/C++/ XML Programming language

Desired Skills and Work Experience

- Work experience in related position (Design and Development Environment)
- Understanding of Assembler, Java, XML, DHTML ,HTML/ Java-Script, SQL and WinRunner languages
- 32-bit Windows Programming, OLE Automation and OLE Control, Win32 Kernel Windows Device Drivers, OLE DB, DCOM, and ActiveX application programming interfaces/ Video Driver Development
- Software testing experience – test case development/ management
- Diagnostic tools such as ICE, soft-ICE, and kernel debugger
- Object-Oriented Programming Design and UML methodologies
- Microsoft Project or other Project Management tools

Process Engineers

Code : PE

Desired Skills and Work Experience/ Education

- Must be a graduate IE/ COME;
- Must have at least 3 years and well-versed in other industrial engineering functions/operations;
- Excellent in analytical and organizational skills;
- Proficient in both oral and written communications;
- Computer literate. Knowledge in Programming is a must.
- Possess good human relations;
- Quality oriented with good working attitude and must possess a drive for continuous improvements;
- Can work under pressure, with work schedule flexibility, willing to render overtime;
- Must be a good team player.

Cadet Engineers

Code: CADET

Desired Skills and Work Experience/ Education

- A graduate of BS EE/ ECE/ ME/ Comp/ IE;
- Computer literate (MSExcel & MSWord); knowledge in CAD operations is a must.
- Self- motivated, team player and hardworking;
- Willing to be assigned on shifting schedules;
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills.

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé with 2x2 colored picture and transcript of records to, or e-mail them at: romega@lear.com.
For inquiries call at (032) 340-7950 local 6237.

The Human Resources Officer
Lear Automotive Services (Netherlands) B.V., Phil. Branch,
Philippine Engineering and Technology Center
MEZ II, Basak, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Phils.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS **September 19, 2003.**

HIMLAYANG PILIPINO PLANS, INCORPORATED

has immediate need for:

CLAIMS MANAGER

- Graduate of at least a 4-year College Course
- With relevant supervisory or managerial experience preferably either in a Pre-Need or Insurance Company
- Has the facility of oral and written communications
- Adept in customer relations, and proficient in dealing and interacting with people in all situations
- Preferably with legal background in claims
- Between 35-47 years old

Come visit us personally or send resumé, transcript and 2x2 ID photo to:

The Personnel Department
6th Floor, Triumph Building
1610 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

Tel. Nos. 927-9671 to 75 * 920-2876 * 929-6811/12
Fax (926-7328)
Email: hplhppl@info.com.ph

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- **At least 2 years experience in sales of electrical products**
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Apply personally at 2209 Jose Abad Santos Avenue near Batangas St., Tondo, Manila with bio-data sheets, 1" x 1" ID photos and transcript of records.

e-mail: yek@mindgate.net

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Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

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Assistant Editor

The Assistant Editor will be part of the Global Sources Online/Electronic Components editorial team and handling technical editorial operations, coordinating with electronics design industry, and ensuring optimum content quality for the trade magazine.

The successful candidate must have excellent English language skills with professional-level business writing expertise. You are required to have a degree in Journalism, Communication, or English with at least 3 years of editorial experience in a supervisory capacity. You must also have the ability to manage a team, meet tight deadlines, and have strong attention to detail. Experience in technology/trade publications, news writing and special features can be an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package, business travel opportunities and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested individuals should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

PLANTERSBANK

Planters Development Bank

The Bank for Small and Medium Enterprises with foreign shareholders: the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Development Bank and Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) needs the following positions:

ACOUNT OFFICER & ASSISTANT

Candidates should have at least 3 years experience as Account Officer or 1 year work experience as Account Assistant in a banking institution and be presently involved in management of quality loan portfolio. We are interested in persons possessing good market network, a proven track record in managing and meeting sales targets, and knowledge of program lending. Candidates should be customer-driven, computer literate and able to prepare project proposals, conduct financial evaluations and communicate ideas with any level of the organization. The ability to speak Chinese is an advantage.

BRANCH OFFICERS

An immediate requirement for Pampanga, Tarlac, Cebu and Davao. Candidates must have at least 3 years experience in branch banking operations in a managerial or supervisory level. He or she must be marketing and service-oriented and willing to accept provincial assignments. We are looking for someone who is computer literate and with excellent oral and written communications skills. The ability to speak Chinese is an advantage.

AUDIT OFFICER & EXAMINER

Candidates must be graduates of Accounting course; CPA or MBA an advantage. Candidates for Audit Officer should have audit experience, preferably as an officer in a bank or other financial institutions. He or she must be proficient in Microsoft applications and accounting software, willing to travel in provincial areas and do audit work. Candidates must also possess excellent oral and written communications skills. Background in information technology audit is highly needed.

Applicants are requested to apply ONLINE via our email:
jobs@plantersbank.com.ph
Or send their bio-data with 2 x 2 ID picture, diploma and transcript of records to:

THE RECRUITMENT
Human Resources Department
Planters Development Bank
314 Buendia Avenue, 1200 Makati City
www.plantersbank.com.ph

MANDALUYONG ICE PLANT & COLD STORAGE

103 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City (in front of Jose Rizal University)
is now accepting applications for the position of

APPRENTICE ENGINEER

Applicants should be aged 21-25 yrs old and must have a university degree in Mech. Engineering. Board certification is preferred but not a requirement. Proficiency in industrial refrigeration and HVAC is beneficial. The position reports directly to the Chief Plant Engineer and involves various technical and applied aspects of ice plant operations and maintenance.

Interested persons should present themselves together with a detailed resumé, 2x2 photo, and a certified true copy of transcripts from the university registrar. Please look for Ms. Ilet Usero for further instructions.

Rustan's

urgently needs...

ASSOCIATE LEGAL COUNSEL

- Male, between 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of Law from reputable school and Bar passer
- With 2 to 4 years actual litigation and corporate work
- Must be computer literate

AUDIT ANALYSTS

- Female, between 21 to 27 years old
- BS-Industrial Engineering or Accounting graduate
- Preferably CPA and/or with related job experience in external or internal audit, accounting, methods systems analysis and designs
- With IT/Audit background
- Reliable, hardworking, trustworthy, with good moral character

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

- Between 21 to 28 years old
- BS-Industrial Engineering or Accounting graduate
- Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- Preferably with related work experience
- Willing to work beyond regular office hours

NURSE

- Female, between 21 to 30 years old
- Graduate of Nursing, with license
- Preferably with 1 year work experience, computer literate
- Good in oral and written communication skills, monitoring and coordination skills

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

- Female, Gay, between 18 to 28 years old
- Has completed at least 2 years in college
- 5'2 in height with PLEASING PERSONALITY and CLEAR COMPLEXION
- Preferably with Skin Care or Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPISTS

- Female, between 20 to 28 years old
- Graduate of Physical Therapy or Nursing
- At least 5'2 in height with PLEASING PERSONALITY and CLEAR COMPLEXION
- Preferably with Skin Care or Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS

- Female, between 18 to 28 years old
- Has completed at least 2 years in college
- 5'2 in height with PLEASING PERSONALITYand CLEAR COMPLEXION
- Preferably with experience in Skin Care and Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may apply personally to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION
HUMAN RESOURCE & ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Rustan Bldg. EDSA, Mandaluyong City
(near Barrio Fiesta, beside CATS)

CONTACTPOINT

Do you have...?

- Previous telemarketing/call center experience
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Dreams of career advancement

Are you...?

- A graduate of any four-year course (fresh graduates are welcome to apply)
- Highly customer-focused & a team player
- Strongly motivated and with high level of pressure tolerance
- Willing to work on holidays and shifting schedules
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Office programs

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Then join us, earn **BIG** and take your talents to the top with the leader in the industry providing local & international trades with superior & innovative business solutions.

We are an affiliate company of Pacific Internet Philippines & a call center servicing international & US-based clients.

Given the urgency of these requirements, we are inviting interested applicants to apply in person with a copy of their comprehensive resumés at:

31/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
Tuesday – Saturday
7am – 3pm

Or you can also send your online application at hr_cp@pacific.net.ph or call 910-5175 for inquiries.

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eReps™ are Customer Service Representatives who provide **CUSTOMER SERVICE** or **TECHNICAL SUPPORT** via phone, chat, email or fax on a **24x7 basis.**

PEOPLE**SUPPORT** is a leading international contact center that provides **superior customer service** via phone, chat, email and fax, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Its **Corporate Headquarters** is in Los Angeles, with **Operations Centers** strategically located in the **Makati Central Business District**, and soon in **Cebu City**

We focus on creating a **supportive environment** for our eReps™ so we can retain the best talent. We maintain a **positive culture** through motivation and retention programs, offer a **dynamic** and **state-of-the-art** work environment, casual dress code, **professional development and training**, and a **competitive compensation and benefits package**.

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ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific
Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Compliance Coordination Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Associate Secretary, Compliance Review Panel, Office of the Compliance Review Panel (OCRP).

The position is responsible for providing administrative, analytical and technical support in the implementation of the new ADB Accountability Mechanism for ADB-assisted projects. Information on the new ADB Accountability Mechanism, including the OCRP, is available on the ADB homepage at http://www.adb.org.

Description of Responsibilities

- Conducting preliminary review of compliance requests received by ensuring that these are within the scope of the compliance review and do not fall under any of the exclusions stated in the Board paper on the establishment of a new ADB accountability mechanism;
- Facilitating effective conduct of review of compliance requests by checking eligibility requirements and ensuring completeness of the contents of compliance requests;
- Ensuring that the procedural steps and proposed time frames for the compliance review process are observed and monitored;
- Ensuring the preparation of comprehensive reports on compliance review, including its disposition and resolution, monitoring and reporting on the status of these compliance reviews;
- Ensuring availability, accuracy and efficient retrieval of information needed for the review, analysis and monitoring of compliance requests received and monitoring of implementation of decisions made by the Board of Directors following a compliance review;
- Ensuring the follow-up on monitoring implementation of decisions made by the Board of Directors following a compliance review, including reports on postcompliance review monitoring and its outcomes;
- Maintaining and updating a database of independent technical experts to assist CRP in its work. Assisting in selection and engagement of consultants required to assist the CRP in carrying out its work, including follow-up on contract variations and reporting requirements;
- Maintaining web site and ensuring that documents and events are updated regularly, including maintenance of the registry of requests;
- Collating, preparing and finalizing materials for annual reports and other publications, including arranging their publication;
- Collecting information in suitable form for publication of brochures and information material relating to the compliance review phase for public dissemination and conducting public outreach for the ADB accountability mechanism, including coordination with the Office of the Special Project Facilitator (OSPF),
- Collating experiences from compliance reviews to be fed back into ADB operations, coordinating with the OSPF on their related experiences and integrating them;
- Participating in missions, if required, assisting in compliance review processes, and preparing back-to-office and other reports;
- Organizing seminars and related workshops for the OCRP and overall for the ADB accountability mechanism, including public outreach;
- Assisting in preparation and implementation of the budget for the ADB accountability mechanisms, including OCRP, Board of Compliance Review Committee (BCRC), as well as coordinating with OSPF on its budget; and
- Performing any other duties as may be required for the administrative functioning of OCRP.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- A university degree in Management, Liberal Arts, Economics or related fields;
- At least seven (7) years of relevant experience;
- Ability to take a body of data and information, and organize the component ideas into a logical sequence for written presentation;
- Knowledge and understanding of operations, project cycle, policies and procedures, and related matters of multilateral development and financing agencies;
- Good conceptual and analytical skills;
- Proven ability to identify issues and relevant facts;
- Good interpersonal skills with ability to liaise and work effectively with staff, Management and Board of Directors and with external clients, member governments, executing agencies and civil society;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (word processing, spreadsheet, and graphics); and
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N003-096(3)-OCRP** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org** by **12 September 2003**. External applicants who have responded to this position advertised earlier on the ADB web site need not resubmit their applications. Their applications will be considered together with applications received in response to this advertisement.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

EARN UNLIMITED INCOME!

As

Marketing Associate / Distributor

If you are a college graduate, hardworking, persevering, good communication skills, pleasant personality, excellent public relations and committed to work full time.

Qualified applicants will be trained at company expenses. Benefits include commissions (P30T to P50T/month), car plan, opportunity to travel abroad, other privileges and benefits.

Applicants are requested to bring their resume with 2x2 passport size picture and be ready for interview on Sept. 9 & 10, 2003 (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM)

ROYAL ACCENT
Suites 2304-2305 Antel Global Bldg., Dona Julia Vargas St.,
Cor. Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig, Metro Manila

IMMEDIATE HIRING

ENGINEERS

- CIVIL ENGINEERS
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
- SANITARY ENGINEERS
- GEODETIC ENGINEERS
- CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

ARCHITECTS

Qualifications:

Licensed, computer literate (AUTOCAD, STAAD, MS PROJECT) with at least 1 year work experience

Interested applicants may send their resumé with recent 2 x 2 photo and transcript of records
For interview starting September 8, 2003, M-W-F from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at

BOX code No. 300
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classifieds Division
5th Flr., Bldg. B, SM Megamall,
Mandaluyong City

We are looking for Young, Active and Ambitious Personnel to fill-up the following positions:

Marketing Staff

- Male/Female, 25 to 30 years of age
- Marketing graduate or its equivalent
- Experienced in candy products
- Can analyze and formulate strategies
- Willing to work with minimum supervision and can handle pressure

Warehouse Checker

- Male, 25 to 30 years of age
- IE Graduate or its equivalent
- Experienced in warehouse management
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may come personally for an interview to submit resumé with 2x2 picture at:

#21 Malvar St., Bagong Barrio,
Caloocan City
(near SSS Caloocan)

HUSH PUPPIES

Shoemaker's Shop, Inc.
A Licensee of
The Hush Puppies Company

24 Guerilla St., Sto. Niño,
Marikina City 1800
Tel.: (632) 941-7877

Is in need of a highly competent Individual to fill the following vacant positions:

MARKETING MANAGER

- at least 24 years old
- graduate of any four year business course from a reputable institution
- with at least three years work experience in retail operations marketing
- dynamic and possesses strong leadership skills

STORE SUPERVISOR

- college graduate of a 4-year course, pref. business course
- male or female
- has work experience in retail, marketing or sales
- not more than 24 years old
- has good oral and written communication skills
- has good leadership skills

SALES PROMO

- male or female
- not more than 22 years old
- height of 5'2" for female, 5'6" for male
- at least 2nd year college
- had good oral and written communication skills
- above average physical appearance

Interested applicants may submit their resumé, transcript of records and previous records and previous employment certificate

S E A M E O
SEARCA

REGIONAL CENTER FOR GRADUATE STUDY AND RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE

***SEAMEO SEARCA,** one of the 15 regional centers of excellence of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, an intergovernment organization established in 1965 to promote cooperation in education, science, and culture, invites qualified applicants to the following vacant positions:*

Head, Research and Development Department
- Doctorate with proven high level of management, leadership and networking skills; 10 years of relevant work experience.

Head, Knowledge Management Unit
- Master's degree in Communication, Information Technology or related field; 8 years of relevant work experience, 3 years of which in managerial capacity.

Head, Accounting Unit
- CPA, preferably with Master's degree in Business Administration; 8 years of relevant work experience, 3 years of which in managerial capacity.

Head, Facilities Management Unit
- Bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management or related field; 8 years experience in dormitory/lodging operation, 3 years of which in managerial capacity.

Head, General Services Unit
- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Management, or Industrial/Management Engineering, preferably CPA or with MBA degree; 8 years of experience in local and foreign procurement and inventory management, 3 years of which in managerial capacity.

Head, Human Resource Management Unit
- Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science or any related Social Science field, preferably with Master's degree in Human Resource Management, Psychology, or Industrial Relations; 8 years of relevant work experience, 3 years of which in managerial capacity.

Head, Treasury Services Unit
- Master's degree in Business Administration or related field; 8 years job-related experience, 3 years of which in managerial capacity.

Head, Internal Audit Unit
- CPA, preferably with Master's degree; 8 years of experience in internal/external audit preferably acquired from an accounting or auditing firm, 3 years of which in managerial capacity.

Project Development Specialist
- Master's degree in Agriculture, Economics or related field; 5 years of relevant experience

Public Relations Specialist
- Bachelor's degree in Communication or related field; at least 3 years experience in PR work.

Executive Assistant
- Bachelor's degree, preferably with Master's degree in Management or Public Administration; 6 years of relevant work experience.

Information Systems Specialist
- Master's degree in Information Science/Technology, Computer Science, or related field; 5 yrs work experience.

Information/Communication Specialist/Editor
- Master's degree in Information Technology, Communication, Journalism or English; 5 years on-the-job experience in scientific documentation work and general work experience in technical/business writing, publication, 2 years of which in technical editing.

Management Specialist
- Master's degree in Management, Industrial/Management Engineering or related field; at least 5 years of relevant experience.

Lodging Supervisor
- Bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management or related field; 5 years of relevant work experience, 2 years of which in supervisory capacity.

HR Specialist
- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Management, Social Science or related field, preferably with Master's degree in Human Resource Management, Psychology or Industrial Relations; 5 years of relevant work experience.

Production Assistant/Library Aide
- Completion of two-year diploma course, preferably with Bachelor's degree in library science, communication arts, information technology or related fields; 1 year relevant experience.

Driver-Mechanic
- Certificate from two-year vocational course in Auto-Mechanics, must have passed the government licensure examination for mechanics; 2 years on-the-job experience.

*Interested applicants may send their application letter and comprehensive resumé with details of work experience, academic records, recent 1 x 1 photo, and references (at least three with full contact details) not later than **19 September 2003** to: Deputy Director for Administration, SEAMEO SEARCA, College, Los Baños, Laguna 4031; email: gcs@agri.searca.org; fax: (63-49) 536-7097, 536-2914. Only short-listed applicants will be notified.*

For the required competencies of each position, terms of reference, and other details, please refer to **URL: http://www.searca.org/jobs**

EXPERIENCED ANALYST/DEVELOPER REQUIRED

A subsidiary of a leading Hong Kong based technology company is looking for 2 highly experienced developers to join a dynamic and highly skilled team in the Philippines. If you are seeking a challenge and the opportunity to be part of an expanding International company then this is the position for you.

Previous applicants for this position should not re-apply

Qualifications:
- A graduate with a top class IT related Degree.
- MCP or MCSD would be considered an advantage

At least **2 years experience of Internet development** using the following or related technologies:
- ASP, ADO, VBScript, JavaScript, HTML CSS.
- MS SQL 2000 DB design and development.
- Visual Basic 6.

Preference will be given to candidates who have some of the skills listed below:
- Experience of installing and configuring the following products:
  - MS Windows 2000 server.
  - MS ISA.
  - Active Directory.
  - MS Exchange 2000.
- Development experience of:
  - XML/XSLT.
  - Visual Studio .Net.

Candidates should be dynamic and creative to match the exciting environment they will work in. Must also be self motivated, a team player with high standards of code development. **Closing date for applications is 12th September 2003.**

Qualified applicants should email their application letter and comprehensive resume with colour photograph to hr@yes.com.ph

Total Solutions Software Inc, YES Group
801 Metropolitan Terraces, cor Dao & Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City

www.yes.com.ph www.yesyes.com

A Multinational Company is in need of:

1. Marketing Assistant for Medical Equipment

- Newly graduate of any four year course
- Dynamic and with self-motivation
- Willing to be trained and do field work
- Preferably female

2. Telecom Specialist

- With at least one year sales experience in telephone system
- Fluent in English
- Age up to 35 years old
- Preferably female

We offer above industry-standard compensation package.

Send by e-mail or personally your resumé with picture at:

KITAL PHILIPPINES CORP.
Unit 607, Taipan Place
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605
E-mail: kital@kital.com.ph

Leading PR Agency Looking for PR Staff Assistants

A leading PR agency handling top local and international accounts is looking for young people, male or female, to fill positions as PR Staff Assistants with the chance to learn and develop fast into real PR professionals. The persons we are looking for should ideally be:

- **Between 20-25 years of age;**
- **Graduates of Communications Management, Journalism or Economics from a leading university**
- **With excellent oral and written communications skills;**
- **Creative, hardworking and willing to learn**

If you are interested, please call **Carrie** at tel. no. **891-3396** or **891-3485**.

SUZUKI
Philippines, Inc.

The manufacturer and distributor of well-known brand motorcycles and vehicles is in need of a –

MARKETING MANAGER

Reporting directly to the Vice-President for Automobile, the candidate must –

- Be a graduate of Marketing or other related business course; MBA studies is an advantage;
- Have at least 5 years solid work experience in marketing management gained in Automobile industry;
- Have proven track record in developing and implementing successful product marketing strategies and competent in developing new marketing initiatives that translate to ROI;
- Be capable of building and maintaining beneficial relationship with product dealers and has excellent negotiation skills;
- Be a good team motivator resourceful, creative and possesses a charismatic personality;
- Be well-versed in oral and written communication; computer literate; and
- Possess a professional driver's license.

Interested applicants may send their curriculum vitaé and necessary credentials to:

SUZUKI PHILIPPINES, INC.
Human Resources Department
Danny Floro St., Bugong Ilog, Pasig City
Fax: 671-38-57 E-mail: hrd@suzuki.com.ph

A Subsidiary of One of the Philippines' Top 500 Companies Is in need of:

Sales Account Executives

- Male/Female
- Not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or business related course from a reputable school
- With at least one year experience in selling

Sales Supervisor

- Male/Female
- Not more than 40 years old
- With at least 3 years experience in selling airconditioning equipment and 1-2 years experience in a supervisory level

Accounting Supervisor

- Male/Female
- Not more than 40 years old
- Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 3 years working supervisory experience in General and Financial Accounting

Please send your resumé
with 1 x 1 ID picture to:

Vivian Hipe
4th Flr., ECH Bldg., 100 Jupiter St.
cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
or
Fax to: 895-2014

A well established group of companies is in need of the following:

FOOD TECHNOLOGIST

- 25-35, years old
- Graduate of Food Technology or any related course
- Experienced in the manufacture of meat products
- Willing to work in FTI, Taguig

BEAUTY THERAPISTS

- Female, graduate of Physical Therapy or Nursing
- With pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with Skin Care or Cosmetology background

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

- Female, Midwife or Physical Therapy graduate
- Preferably with working knowledge of massage therapy
- With pleasing personality and clear complexion

COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising
- Experienced in package and label design, print ads
- Working knowledge of Corel, Adobe Page Maker, Photoshop, Illustrator & MS Office required

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

- Male between 25 to 35 years old
- Mechanical/Electrical Engineering graduate
- Willing to work in FTI, Taguig

Please send your resumé with 2 x2 picture to
M.C.P.O. Box 3051, Makati City

A MARKET LEADER AND VERY STABLE COMPANY, dealing in communication and computer peripheral products, has opening for top calibre :

SALES / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

QUALIFICATION :

- MALE / FEMALE 21-30 YEARS OLD
- MUST BE UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE GRADUATE
- PREFERABLY WITH SALES EXPERIENCE AND ESTABLISHED NETWORK
- GOOD WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTER SYSTEM AND APPLICATIONS
- EXCELLENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- WILLING TO DO FIELD WORK
- AGGRESSIVE AND LOTS OF INITIATIVE TO GET THINGS GOING
- ABILITY TO HANDLE STRESS AND KNACK TO OVER-ACHIEVE

WE OFFER :

- GOOD BASIC SALARY
- ATTRACTIVE COMMISSION AND GENEROUS INCENTIVES
- TRAVELING ALLOWANCES
- OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE AND EARN UNLIMITED INCOME

Applicant may apply in writing with comprehensive resume and photo by mail to following address :

MN-2048 Classified Ads Division c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. Cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City

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E-DIRECTORY wants YOU!

If you know companies with WEBSITE You can EARN unlimited INCOME!

- Part Time or Full Time **Account Executive**
- Preferably with Corporate Sales Experience
- 21 to 45 years old, Results Oriented and can start immediately

We also need **Website Designers & Programmers**

Please come for an interview with your Resumé and 2x2 photo
on September 8 to 12, 8 am to 11 am only
3/F Aniger Bldg., (Green Bldg. w/ "Skin First" signage)
8889 Osmeña Highway (South Superhighway) Magallanes Interchange,
Brgy. Bangkal, Makati City (near cor. EDSA and near "Bench" billboard)

Wanted Immediately

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN MATH

- College graduate, major in Math

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN HISTORY

- College graduate, major in History

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN PRESCHOOL

- College graduate, major in Early Childhood Education

ALL APPLICANTS:

- 22-25 years old
- With good academic records
- Can do copyreading, proofreading, and mechanical editing
- Editing experience is an advantage
- Good in written and oral communications
- Creative and can work under pressure
- Teaching experience is an advantage

Please send letter of application with CV/ biodata, transcript of records and ID photo to:

PERSONNEL
SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
8th Floor, Globe Telecom Plaza II (GTP II)
Pioneer Highlands, Pioneer
cor. Madison Streets,
1552 Mandaluyong City

WANTED 2 SECRETARIES

SECRETARY I

- Female; 23 to 30 years old; must know how to speak Chinese

SECRETARY II

- Female; below 25 years old; must know how to speak English & Tagalog

Please prepare NBI Clearance, photocopy of diploma & 2 pcs. of 2x2 picture

Please call: **SSM TRADING CO. at 323-4954**

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc.

AIG-BPSI, a business process outsourcing (BPO) company, strategically located at the Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, serving the needs of AIG-American General Life Insurance Companies and the newest member of the Philam Group, invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

TEAM LEADERS (Call Center)

Job Requirements:

- Graduates of any college course; advance degree is a plus
- Minimum of two years work experience in supervising people preferably in Insurance or Financial Service Institutions.
- Ability to prepare, analyze, and effectively use different MIS reports; Proficient in Microsoft Software applications
- Strong interpersonal/communication skills; can work effectively across language and cultural barriers
- Progress in / completion of industry (i.e. FLMI, CLU) and previous life insurance and / or customer service designation are added advantages.
- With at least 1 year experience as a supervisor in a Call Center servicing international clients.

Position Responsibilities:

- Manage processes assigned to the team based on established standards; Measure employee performance: productivity, attendance, efficiency, quality, etc.
- Manage staff assignments based on business needs/capacity
- Coach team members on proper handling of transactions and support productivity improvement programs
- Manage a shift schedule from 9:00 PM – 5:30 AM

TEAM LEADERS (Business Processing)

Job Requirements:

- Graduates of any college course; advance degree is a plus
- Minimum of two years work experience in supervising people preferably in Insurance or Financial Service Institutions.
- Ability to prepare, analyze, and effectively use different MIS reports;
- Proficient in Microsoft Software applications
- Strong interpersonal/communication skills; can work effectively across language and cultural barriers
- Progress in / completion of industry (i.e. FLMI, CLU) and previous life insurance and / or customer service designation are added advantages.

Position Responsibilities:

- Manage processes assigned to the team based on established standards; Measure employee performance: productivity, attendance, efficiency, quality, etc.
- Manage staff assignments based on business needs/capacity
- Coach team members on proper handling of transactions and support productivity improvement programs
- Manage a shift schedule from 9:00 PM – 5:30 AM

Opportunity for U.S. training awaits selected staff

Since these are very immediate requirements, please submit your resume w/ 2x2 picture and TOR at the 8/F Philamlife Building, Acacia Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang or email us at BPSI-APPLICANTS@AIG.COM

Hurry! Be part of the Philam Family!

SENIOR MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
SENIOR TECHNICAL SPECIALIST

An NGO with international funding is in need of the following for immediate hiring:

1. **SENIOR MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST** with a science, health or business related degree with relevant experience in high-level management, advocacy and establishing partnership arrangements among various groups particularly on public-private-NGO partnerships at least 5 years and extensive knowledge on program/ management, government and private sector concerns in implementing government programs. Experience in food and agriculture, economic or health related programs are preferred.
2. **SENIOR TECHNICAL SPECIALIST** with a science related degree, with relevant experience in coordination/consulting/management of activities related to monitoring systems and food technology development and transfer (at least 5 years) as well as extensive knowledge on issues related to the above. Experience in establishing monitoring systems for government programs/laws and technical assistance to private sector particularly in the food sector to comply with government regulations is preferred.

Both positions require strong leadership, negotiating, advocacy and training skills and can work with minimal supervision. Results and team oriented with excellent communications and computer skills.

These are urgent requirements. Initial contract will be for 1-year (October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004) full-time position with possible extension. Please send application letter together with resumé/CV addressed to MOST Resident Advisor through e-mail address nseverino@hki.com.ph. Indicate position applied. Closing date for application will be **September 11, 2003.** Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interview.

Valvoline.

Regional Sales Manager

An opportunity exists to join one of the largest independent oil companies in the USA. This lubricant specialist will be expanding its Petroleum Operation in the Philippines and is setting up Corporate Office in Metro Manila.

A self-starter is needed to join this Fortune 500 Company. He will manage the Regional Sales thereby supporting the Country Manager in leading the entity through its next exciting growth phase in the Philippines.

The right person will have:

- A proven track record
- Line management experience
- Both verbal and written communication skills
- Motivational and training skills
- Degree qualified
- Computer skills with knowledge of Excel and PowerPoint

Salary packages dependent on qualification and experience.

All applications can be made via email to **wtrances@ashland.com**

We will only entertain applications submitted on or before September 15, 2003.

DTSI

We are a leading systems integrator and provider of contact center solutions in the Philippines. As AVAYA's Top Business Partner of the year, we are empowered by solid strategic partnerships with Lucent Technologies, Witness Systems, Automated Logic and Sensormatic, apart from many other global technology. In line with this business expansion, we shall be needing high-caliber individuals who fill-in our following employment requirements:

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT MANAGER

- College graduate, preferably with MBA;
- With at least two (2) years experience in an ATM Center;
- Familiar with systems implementation, including testing, UAT and support;
- With good negotiation skills

MARKETING ASSISTANT MANAGER

- College graduate; preferably with MBA;
- With marketing experience in credit cards;
- Capable of developing strategies, building and developing outsourced teams;
- With good negotiation skills

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

- Male/Female; 25-30 years old; Business or Engineering course graduate;
- With at least two (2) years experience in selling and marketing services;
- With excellent verbal & written communication and negotiation skills

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

- Preferably Engineering graduate;
- With five (5) years experience in the payment industry;
- Knowledgeable in ISO8583 and in the payment cycle

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

- College graduate; preferably ECE;
- With at least five (5) years experience in purchasing, logistics and importation of technical or engineering equipment preferably gained from the ICT industry;
- With excellent communication and negotiation skills

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

- Male/Female; 25-30 years old;
- Preferably with two (2) years experience in programming;
- Knowledgeable in Java2, SQL and Web Implementation;
- Must have background in one (1) cycle project implementation, including testing and support

CONVERGE SOLUTIONS SUPPORT ENGINEER

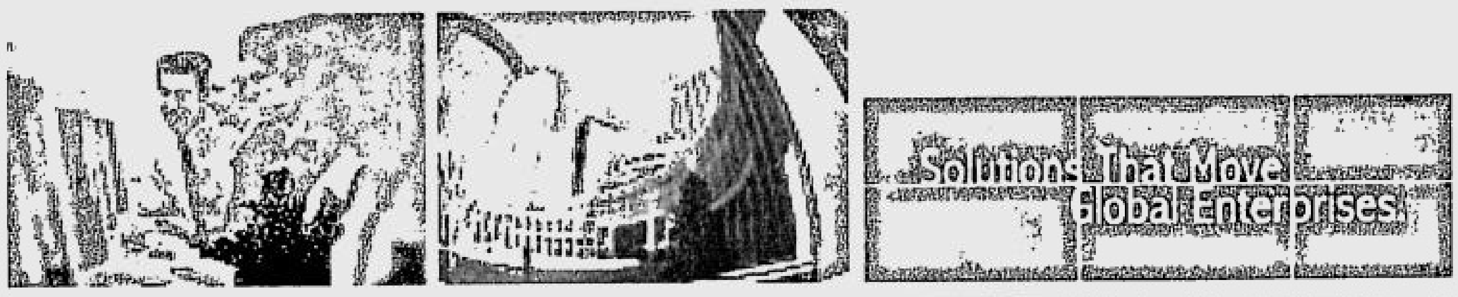
- BSECE, BSCoE or BSIT graduate;
- With at least two (2) years experience and certified by Cisco, 3Com or Avaya;
- With excellent verbal & written communication skills

* Other Requirements *

- **Professionals in the fields of General Management, Human Resources (Generalist, Organization Development & Training and Recruitment), Quality, Information & Communications Technology, Operations Management, Project Management, Safety & Security, Website Development, Sales, Project Management & Engineering, Customer Service and Telemarketing**

Applicants may send their resumés to:

Human Resources & Organization Development Group
39/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or e-mail them to **chrod@dtsi.com.ph.**
You may also contact us at **757-5888** *extension number* **8301** *for inquiries.*



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA

The International School Manila, founded in 1920, is a private co-educational program for Pre-kindergarten through Grade 12 students of all nationalities. Visit us at : www.ismanila.com

IS Manila is now inviting applicants for the positions of:

Chief Accountant
Afternoon Activities Swim Coach
Database Analyst
High School/Middle School Art Teacher

Job Descriptions and Qualifications are posted on:

www.community.ismanila.com/HR

Send applications :
by e-mail : hr@ismanila.com
In subject line please specify position applying for.
by mail : International School Manila
Human Resources
P.O. Box 1526 MCPO
1265 Makati City

DOME

Dome Café is a chain of outlets in the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and Indonesia offering a wide array of fine foods and gourmet coffees. We set the pace for new standards of experience in operating cafés.

We are looking for aggressive, dynamic, pleasant and service-oriented individuals to fill the following positions:

Supervisors
Service Crew
Cashiers
Hosts/Receptionists
Driver
Chefs
Cooks
Kitchen Staff
Handyman/Electrician

Requirements:

☑ Experience in similar capacity
☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
☑ 18 to 35 years of age

Benefits:

☑ Attractive salary and fringe benefits
☑ Excellent opportunity for career advancement
☑ Cross training in other Dome Cafés abroad

Interested parties may send their resumés to:

Dome Café
2/F Security Bank Bldg.
228 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, MM
or Fax resumé to 726-99-94

AIRLIFT ASIA INC a leading Filipino logistics solutions provider is in urgent need of highly motivated & experienced personnel for the following positions:

Accounting Assistant

- Graduate of Bachelor of Science Major in Accountancy
- Experience in a freight forwarding or logistics company will be an advantage
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Applications
- Fresh graduates from reputable schools are encouraged to apply.

Accountant

- Graduate of Bachelor of Science Major in Accountancy
- With at least three (3) years accounting / audit experience
- Great organizer and planner, meticulous and responsible
- Must be adept in the preparation of various account schedules and financial statements
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Applications.

Customer Service Officer

- Graduate of Marketing or other related courses from highly reputable tertiary institutions
- Intelligent, resourceful, diligent and flexible
- Personable and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively
- Above average to excellent oral and written communication
- A dynamic and confident sales person

Human Resource Assistant

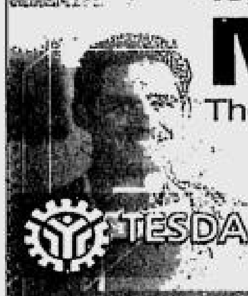
- Registered nurse, preferably with one (1) year experience as a Company Nurse
- With at least two (2) years experience in employee benefits administration and services
- Personable and results-oriented
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Applications.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resumé and application letter together with a copy of their transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

The Human Resource Department
Airlift Asia Inc
Kaingin Road, Multinational Drive, Parañaque City
or
hr@aai.com.ph

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS

49,000 to 123,000* Wanted Worldwide! Enroll at



MTC Academy

The Country's **1ST & ONLY TESDA ACCREDITED**
TVET # NTR0313060118
Medical Transcription Training Program!

TESDA The Philippine and United States outsourced MT job markets have a **SEVERE SHORTAGE OF MTs.** Now is your chance to pursue a **HIGH $ INCOME $ CAREER** in a Billion Dollar Industry as a Medical Transcriptionist! Enroll now at MTC Academy and be ahead!

Why MTC Academy?

- FIRST and ONLY TESDA Accredited MT Program
- Assured On-The-Job Training & Job Placement Assistance
- Highly Trained and Experienced MT Instructors
- Fully Airconditioned Lecture and Lab Rooms
- Affordable EASY Payment Plans
- Computerized HIGH TECH Facilities
- Highly Competent Training Staff
- Flexible Class Schedules for Working Students

MTC Academy has 4 courses:**

- Advanced MT for Continuing Education*** (6 weeks)
- Intermediate MT for Medical Course Graduates (3 months)
- Intermediate MT for Non-Medical Course Graduates (6 months)
- Basic MT for High School Graduates (12 months)

* Based on MTIA growth rate stats of [illegible] Job estimates based on 12 cents per line at each MT producing 300 lines/day.
** All courses have a separate 4-week OJT Program
*** The Continuing Education Program is designed especially for practicing MTs who want to take the AAMT Cert. Exam.

International Affiliations : (Medical Transcription Industry Alliance - USA) (American Association for Medical Transcription - USA)

Office Hours: Mon to Sat - 8AM to 5PM / Free Orientation Seminars on Wed,Thu,Fri & Sat at 10:00AM and 2:00PM. Reserve NOW! Now accepting inquiries for QUEZON CITY and MAKATI. September and October classes are open for enrollment!

3rd Flr. MJG Building, Aurora Blvd. cor. Baleta Drive, Cubao, QC 726-4391 / 726-4394 / 892-3320 / admin@mtcacademy.com.

Wanted! Medical Transcription Instructors Experienced MTs, MT Instructors & Doctors are invited to apply. HIGH Basic+Bonus+Allowance to qualified applicants!

SUMISETSU PHILIPPINES, INC.

a subsidiary company of

SUMITOMO DENSETSU CO., LTD. of Japan

is looking for

ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

- Licensed Electrical Engineer with valid PRC licensed and PTR
- 30-35 years old , at least 5-10 yrs. experienced in the electrical construction work for industrial / manufacturing building project.
- Knowledgable in project management , monitoring and planning.
- Knowledgable in electrical design for industrial and manufacturing facilities.

Applicants w/ working experience in a Japanese firm is an advantage
Please apply in person , submit resume w/ picture and credentials at
6/F The Pearlbank Centre, 146 Valero Street Salcedo Village Makati City

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Project Seahorse

ADVANCING MARINE CONSERVATION

Project Seahorse Foundation for Marine Conservation is seeking individuals to fill the following positions:

1. SENIOR BIOLOGIST

An independent and mature individual responsible for the biological research and management program of the Foundation. He/she will also be involved in promoting the establishment of marine protected areas, managing and providing technical support to field biologists and involvement with advocacy works.

Qualifications: M.Sc. or Ph.D. in Biology; Background in marine biological research with a publication history; experience of working with foreigners; outstanding organizing and communicating skills, solid statistical capabilities; strong written and oral communication and computer skills; Strong commitment to the environment; Fluency in written and spoken English and Tagalog is a must.

Monthly Salary Range: PhP 21,000-PhP 29,000

2. RAPID ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR/BIOLOGIST

Short-term contract for an outgoing and independent professional responsible for developing and implementing a training/extension program on rapid assessment of seahorse populations, trade activities and conservation awareness.

Qualifications: University degree in Biology or related fields; M.Sc. desirable but not essential, Knowledge in coral reef ecology, fishes and the marine benthos; SCUBA qualifications and experience required. Willing to do day and night surveys with local fishers; Good writing skills; Proficient in Tagalog and English; Can work independently with fishing communities, local government units and line agencies; Preferably with experience in organizing and implementing training and outreach programs

Monthly Salary Range: PhP 15,000 - PhP 21,000

3. JUNIOR BIOLOGIST

A team-oriented and industrious professional responsible for providing essential biological data required to support seahorse conservation and fishery management initiatives. He/she will be tasked to complement the current biological research and management activities of the foundation in northern Bohol.

Qualifications: The applicant must possess a university degree in a biological field. Willing to do day and night surveys. Strong written and oral communication skills. Good analytical and computing skills; Proficient in Tagalog and English. Can work independently with fishing communities and local government units. Diving experience a plus but not required.

Monthly Salary Range PhP 14,000 - PhP 19,000

Applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resumé, and transcript of records to

The National Director
Project Seahorse Foundation for Marine Conservation, Inc.
222 First Street, Happy Valley Subdivision
Barangay Guadalupe, 6000 Cebu City Philippines

E-mail apb ps@mozcom.com; psimci@mozcom.com
Fax (032) 254-1390
Tel (032) 262 8032 & (032) 262-8033

Previous applicants need not apply. Deadlines of submission not later than September 30, 2003 for RAP and Junior Biologist positions and October 30, 2003 for the Senior Biologist position

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A Fast Growing Company is in immediate need of service-oriented and dynamic Professionals to be part of our innovative company.

• Marketing Officer

- ✓ Marketing graduate from an exclusive & reputable school
- ✓ Knowledgeable in developing proposals
- ✓ Knowledgeable in hardware/electrical items
- ✓ Effective in customer relations to achieve targets
- ✓ Dedicated and motivated
- ✓ Goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
- ✓ Fluent in oral & written communications (English)
- ✓ At least 25-30 years of age with pleasing personality

• Purchasing Assistant

- ✓ Graduate from an exclusive & reputable school
- ✓ With at least 2 years working experience as purchaser
- ✓ Knowledgeable in Hardware/electrical items
- ✓ Effective in people relations to achieve targets
- ✓ Dedicated and motivated
- ✓ Smart & Fast Learner
- ✓ Goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
- ✓ Fluent in oral & written communications (English & Chinese)
- ✓ At least 25-30 years of age w/ pleasing personality

*** IF YOU THINK YOU ARE QUALIFIED & WANT TO MAKE IT BIG, please send your resumé with your most recent picture at 2nd flr., 280 San Fernando St., Binondo, Manila (5 mins. walking distance from Binondo Church) or send e-mail at Sa_phils_corp@yahoo.com

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imacron
DIGITAL VIDEO

JOB OPENING

NONLINEAR EDITORS

- MassComm grad. preferably
- Highly creative/hardworking
- New grads welcome

MOTION GRAPHICS ARTIST

- Video animation (2D/3D)
- Web design/digital photography

Please send your resumé to:
hrd@imacrom.com

INTERNATIONAL FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT GROUP

is in need of the following positions for its

UNITED STATES EMBASSY

FOOD FACILITIES OPERATIONS:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

- Female, 25-30 yrs. old, graduate of Marketing / Management course from a reputable school
- Articulate, smart, aggressive & with a pleasing personality
- Has good communication and interpersonal skills and computer literate

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

- Preferably a Hotel & Restaurant Management degree from a reputable College or University, at least 5 yrs. experience in the Hotel & Restaurant Industry
- Excellent Communication skills in both oral and written English
- Computer literate

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female, no more than 25 yrs. old, single, graduate of Accounting course
- Honest, responsible, hardworking, highly analytical, computer literate and with pleasing personality

PURCHASING OFFICER

- Female, single not more than 28 yrs. old, graduate of HRM or any related course, computer literate
- Experienced in purchasing work, able to plan, analyze & procure items in a timely manner
- With pleasing personality, initiative, hardworking, diligent and resourceful

Qualified applicants may send or apply personally with their resume, 2x2 photo, NBI clearance and all supporting documents and references to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
15 Aras Street, Brgy. Maytunas San Juan, Metro Manila
E-mail: internationalfnb@hotmail.com

The Justice Reform Initiatives Support (JURIS) Project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency is urgently in need of a

Finance and Administrative Officer

With the following terms of reference

- ☐ Ensure the smooth administrative and financial operations of the project office, to be located in the Ortigas area
- ☐ Establish and maintain an accurate, timely and reliable financial disbursement and accounting system
- ☐ Organize the secretariat work of project meetings and conferences
- ☐ Establish a project operations manual and provide advisory services to project partners

Qualifications

- ☐ preferably a finance, legal/management or accounting graduate
- ☐ at least 3 years of experience in office management, financial administration and secretariat work/events coordination
- ☐ highly proficient in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint, and other accounting and management software
- ☐ high degree of initiative in running an office and meeting deadlines for administrative tasks and responsibilities

Salary and benefits shall be negotiable and commensurate to experience.

Please send your application letters and comprehensive resumés by fax, email or mail to the following address no later than September 12, 2003; Philipines Canada Cooperation Office, Unit 1402, 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Fax no. 817-6920. Email address: pcco.log@cidamnl.com.ph Cvs should be in Microsoft Word format.

BE A PART OF A TEAM COMMITTED TO JUSTICE REFORMS IN OUR COUNTRY!

GEORGE GARRETT
GUILFORD
& ASSOCIATES

PIPELINE OPERATIONS ENGINEER

Our client, ***a global player in the oil and gas industry***, is looking for a top caliber ***Filipino Mechanical Engineer*** with the following qualifications:

- A Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from a reputable local or international university
- Minimum of 5 years experience on offshore and onshore pipelines, with a solid knowledge of inspection, maintenance and repair (IMR) methods
- Knowledge and experience in pipeline design techniques
- Experience in integrity management related to pipelines
- Knowledgeable of other underwater (subsea) assets

The Company is prepared to offer an attractive compensation package. The successful candidate can look forward to being part of a dynamic technical team executing a wide range of pipeline related work as well as the opportunity for international postings.

We invite interested qualified candidates to email their comprehensive CVs detailing work experience, job responsibilities and work accomplishments to the following address:

esl@georgegarrettguilford.com

A COMMERCIAL/PACKAGING PRINTING COMPANY

IS IN URGENT NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

SR. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Aged 23-28 years old, marketing/advertising graduate or any related course; preferably with field sales experience from Ad agencies or any related field; with vast list of clients; good command of both oral & written communications; computer literate and honest.

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

Female, 25-30 years old; college graduate preferably BS Psychology or Behavioral Science course; w/ 1 year office work experience; familiar with HR & Admin. operation; must have good public relations; should possess excellent oral & written communication skills; computer literate.

MAINTENANCE MAN

Male, 25-35 years old; college level or vocational course grad. of Industrial Electricity or Electronic or Mech'l; w/ expertise in repair, maintenance and trouble-shooting of printing machines; flexible with good analytical mind and good oral/ written communication skills; willing to work overtime and during holidays.

SENIOR PRESSMAN

Male, aged bet. 27-35; with more than 4 yrs. equivalent experience; proficiency in Heidelberg offset machines is preferred but not necessary.

Send your updated resumé with 2 x 2 colored picture and Transcript of records personally or by mail to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
2275 P. Burgos St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 831-9668/831-0429/831-7549
Fax No. 831-2945

GRAND JOB FAIR OF
BUENCONSEJO, ILLUSTRADO & ASSOCIATES

URGENTLY NEEDS....

JUNIOR MANAGER
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
CORPORATE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

45-GRADUATES OF: PT, OT, RT, BSN & anh MED. courses
* License of Non-License & good pleasing personality
30-GRADUATES OF: IE, ECE, EE, ME, CE & Archl.
* Self-motivated & willing to undergo training
20-GRADUATES OF: BSC, Tourism, Educ., Philo & Psyc
* Managerial skill is an advantage
12-GRADUATES OF: CoE, ComSci & other IT related courses.
* Creative, good analysis & hardworking

** Age 20 to 35 years old, with or w/o experience. Willing to be assigned in diff. positions available in the company.
** Hiring starts on Sept. 8 to 13, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM). Accepted applicants from Sept. 8 to 13, 2003 will start immediately.

OFW & OCW ARE WELCOME TO APPLY

Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resume, original credential and 2x2 picture at:

#235-C Mercan Bldg., EDSA Ext'n., Pasay City (near Savar's Square & Allied Bank, walking distance from MRT Taft & LRT Edsa station)

Look for MS. ESTRADA

Clip this AD to your RESUME

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
ACCOUNTANT

- Male or Female
- Certified Public Accountant
- At least five years experience in installing system and procedures for internal and external financial control in a multi-branch set-up
- Capable of establishing sound Accounting and Admin system and policies
- Not more than 36 years old

Those who do not meet the above mentioned standard need not apply.

You may come personally on Monday, September 08 or send resumé with picture to:

Human Resources Department
PhilsLife Services, Inc.
5th Floor Ramon Magsaysay Center
1680 Roxas Boulevard, Malate Manila
Or you may call 4041331 for details

THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN COMMITTEE FOR ADVOCACY (SEACA), a regional network which focuses on building capabilities of South East Asian civil society groups for advocacy, is in **urgent need of a FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER** for its secretariat office in Quezon City

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
- Primarily responsible for bookkeeping SEACA's accounts
- Providing accurate and timely financial reports
- Ensures accountability to internal and external partners
- Provides over-all administrative and personnel support to the organization

QUALIFICATIONS
- College or university degree
- At least five years of work experience in financial management and Administration preferably with an NGO
- Internal and external audit skills and experience
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Mature, flexible and with skills in human relations
- A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) (desirable)

Interested candidates, please send your application letter with curriculum vitaé and 3 references not later than September 10, 2003 to:

The Programme Coordinator
South East Asian Committee for Advocacy
Unit 208, Margarita Bldg.
No. 28 Matalino Street, Central District, Quezon City
Or e-mail to: info@seaca.net

SEACA offer a salary range of Php20,000.00 - Php28,000.00/ month (depending on qualifications) and benefits.

EditServ, a leading supplier of editorial services is in need of five (5) output-driven and results-oriented

COPY EDITORS

with the following qualifications.

- ☐ A graduate of any 4-year science-related course
- ☐ Highly analytical
- ☐ Fluent in both oral and written English (correct grammar and sentence construction)

Qualified candidates will start at an above-standard basic salary. Incentives shall also be given based on performance and productivity.

Applicants may submit their resumé online at edit_serv@yahoo.com or personally at Unit 1219, Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Blvd. cor. St. Francis, Mandaluyong City (Look for Alma)

JOB VACANCIES

1) Assistant Sales/ Marketing Manager
2) Web Programmer
3) Junior Web Consultant

Please submit your resumé at
http://resumebank.mindgate.net

We are looking

MARKETING ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST

Requirements:
- College graduate, single
- Can speak English fluently, computer literate & fast typist
- Has an outstanding communication and customer handling skills
- Smart, approachable and can work with less supervision
- Must have initiative and willing to work longer period of hours

Scope of work:
- ✓ Will be responsible in transferring calls and taking messages
- ✓ Assist in preparation of proposal and promotional materials
- ✓ Will be responsible in tracking inventories, sales and delivery
- ✓ Respond to sales inquiry conceptualize and develop marketing communication

Interested applicants must submit their complete curriculum vitaé with 2x2 picture not later than September 30, 2003 at:

H2O Plus Water Treatment Company
144 BSC Bldg., Rm. 205 Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City
Qualified applicants will be called for interview

Gigahertz
computer systems

ACCOUNTANT – Female, BS Accountancy graduate from a reputable school. Must have experience in Bookkeeping and Preparation of Financial Statements. Computer Literate.

AUDIT STAFF – Female, 21 to 28 years old, BS Accountancy graduate or any 4-year related course. Computer literate.

HUMAN RESOURCES PERSONNEL – Female, BS Psychology graduate or any 4-year related course. Must have at least 2 years experience in handling personnel. Proficient in networking.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN – Male, 21 to 28 years old. BS Computer Engineering graduate or any related courses. Must be skilled and expert in troubleshooting computer hardware.

If you think you are qualified in any position above, send over your resumé and other credentials at:

Atrium 4 G/F, Virramall Shopping Center,
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 722-8295 / 726-5685

A fast growing company is in need of the following:

Sales Executive
- male / female college graduate of any course
- hardworking, dedicated, aggressive and w/ pleasing personality
- proficient in written and oral English communication
- w/ experience in selling educational materials
- Applicant for Visayas and Mindanao are urgently needed.

Graphic Artist
- male / female college graduate preferably Fine Arts
- w/ background in computer, Photoshop, PageMaker and Corel Draw
- Knowledgeable in manual and computer based illustration, page design, artwork skills
- w/ experience

Junior Editor
- college graduate major in Journalism or Education
- w/ experience in editing, designing and lay-out pages

Mail your Resume to: EPHESIANS Publishing Inc.
Rm. 209, Golden Sun Bldg. II
29 Mindanao Ave., Pag-asa Q. C.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL
seeks experienced and highly competent

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER and EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The **Resource Development Officer** leads fund-raising efforts. S/he proactively identifies potential fund-sources, prepares proposals as well as appeals, and secures grants, contributions, and service opportunities. The RDO also maintains the Donor Database and continuously nurtures donors leading to sustained commitments to the work of CFSI.

The **Executive Assistant** provides administrative support services to the Executive Director and contributes to development, monitoring, and reporting efforts. S/he manages the communications programmes of CFSI. Representational responsibilities and domestic travel are required occasionally.

Qualified applicants for both posts are aggressive, organized, and have academic degrees as well as experience in business management, marketing, and/or communications. Strong interpersonal skills and cross-cultural experience; excellent writing and English language skills; and familiarity with both the corporate and NGO communities in the Philippines are required. Proficiency in the use of computers and various softwares is also required.

Compensation and benefits at this long established, award winning NGO are at competitive rates. The work environment is demanding and challenging, but supportive and growth producing.

Applicants should submit a cover letter addressed to the Executive Director and full curriculum vitaé through email address headquarters@cfsi.ph or MCC-PO Box 2733, Makati City by Wednesday, 17 September 2003. Acknowledgements of receipt sent to qualified applicants only.

A WELL-KNOWN GARMENT COMPANY

Is in need of:

SALES DIRECTOR
- ○ not more than 45 years old
- ○ with at least 3-year experience in the job required
- ○ graduate of Marketing or any related course
- ○ computer literate
- ○ with pleasing and dynamic personality
- ○ has excellent oral and written communication skills
- ○ a team builder, hardworking and of good moral character
- ○ highly skilled in inventory management, wholesaling and retailing
- ○ sensitive to both the customers' needs and business environment

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
- ○ 25 to 30 years old
- ○ with at least 3-year supervisory experience
- ○ highly analytical, hardworking and trustworthy
- ○ has extensive knowledge in manufacturing and retailing

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
- ○ college graduate, preferably Fine Arts
- ○ has thorough knowledge in Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop, Freehand and AutoCad
- ○ has both manual and computer-based artwork skill in visual design and layouting of display modules

Please send resumé with recent photo to:

MK-123
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave.,
Makati City

INTERNATIONAL FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT GROUP

is in need of the following positions for its

UNITED STATES EMBASSY
FOOD FACILITIES OPERATIONS:

EXECUTIVE CHEF/SOUS CHEF
- Preferably w/ California Culinary Academy Certificate or equivalent
- With at least 1 yr. experience working overseas as chef
- At least 3 yrs. working experience in the Philippines
- Can handle kitchen operations related to the preparations of food which include quality control, costing and menu planning
- Manila based position

CHEF DE PARTIE
- At least 3yrs. working experience in hotel or fine-dinning restaurant
- Possess strong leadership qualities and can work independently
- Willing to be assigned in Nueva Ecija

COOKS
- M/F, not more than 35 yrs. old, excellent cooking skills (International/Filipino) cuisine
- Highly creative, flexible in all work related assignments & can work independently
- Knowledgeable in costing and in hot and cold food preparation
- 2 positions available, 1 in Manila and 1 in Nueva Ecija

FOOD ATTENDANT
- Female, 20- 25 yrs. old, college graduate/ college level, with pleasing personality, customer-oriented
- With experience in the same field

COUNTER HELPER / SANDWICH MAKER
- Female, not more than 30 yrs. old, has good human relations and with pleasing personality
- With experience in sandwich making

DRIVER
- Male, single or married, between 21-35 yrs. old
- Hardworking, honest, dependable and with good moral character
- With valid professional driver's license

Qualified applicants may send or apply personally with their resume, 2x2 photo, NBI clearance and all supporting documents and references to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
15 Aras Street, Brgy. Maytunas San Juan, Metro Manila
E-mail: internationalfnb@hotmail.com

A prestigious Life Insurance Company urgently needs a

SUPERVISOR
for Underwriting & Claims

The candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- College graduate of reputable schools, preferably with MBA degree
- With at least 5 years experience in the field of life insurance underwriting in a supervisory capacity
- Possess in depth knowledge of all aspects of life insurance operations
- Must have excellent leadership and people in handling skills
- Must be proactive, decisive, dynamic, motivated and a team player
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Industry certification an advantage

Please mail your application letter and resumé with 2x2 picture and references to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
COUNTRY BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION
Country Bankers Centre
648 Kalaw Avenue, Ermita, Manila

Note: We thank those who will respond to this ad. However, we will only contact those who will be short-listed. No phone calls and walk-in applicants please.

RGE AGRIDEV CORPORATION

One of the leading Philippine seafood processor and exporter of world-class quality seafood products to the United States and other markets has an urgent need for a:

Management Trainee

Responsible for overseeing the processing, warehousing and shipping of world-class quality seafood products to RGE customers at the Cebu Plant.

The minimum required qualifications are as follows:

- Graduate of Electrical or Industrial Engineering
- Credited with at least seven (7) years work experience in Production Operations / Manufacturing; at least four (4) years supervisory experience
- Full competence on cold chain management, production, quality control, logistics and engineering services
- Computer literate, particularly in Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- A team player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Possesses management and leadership competencies

Applicants are requested to submit personally, mail, or e-mail a comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 picture and transcript of records to the address indicated below not later than September 15, 2003. Kindly indicate your latest compensation package and contact phone numbers for immediate processing.

Cebu Plant Address : Sugeco Compound,
Suba Masulog, Basak,
Lapu Lapu City 6015,
Cebu, Philippines
Telephone No. : (032) 495-6365
E-mail Address: : rge.cebu@pacific.net.ph

Head Office Address : Unit 2810, Jollibee
Plaza Bldg., Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center
Pasig City
Telephone No. : (02) 637-0036
E-mail Address: : rge.manila@pacific.net.ph

Fast Finder, Inc. is in need of:
Account Managers (College Graduates M/F):
– has an adept marketing ability
– can work with minimal supervision
– preferably with exposure to the medical or pharma industry

Send resumé to Suite 1101 Centerpoint Bldg.
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or via e-mail: fast_finder@yahoo.com

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOB MARKET

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Teacher turned HR director shares formula for career success

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR FOCUS

EFREN L. Elane's love for teaching enabled him to rise up the ranks and become a respected human resources management expert. Today, he is Golden ABC's Human Resource and Administration Director where he freely shares his formula for success. Golden ABC is the manufacturer of hip clothing brands like Penshoppe, Oxygen and Memo.

Three skills

According to Elane, success greatly relies on three skills namely, strategic thinking, problem solving and human relations. He explains, "You cannot just think in terms of day to day operations. You have to think in terms of how you can position the company into the future." He also views problem solving as the ability to think of "one solution not only for one problem but one solution for several problems."

Elane values the power of connecting with people. "You can't do much unless you've established good working relationships with people. You can't be just a 'techie.' You have to establish a relationship with your people if you expect to be followed." Elane explains that earning the respect of others comes from developing a sense of authority, which is gained not through one's position but through one's character.

Aside from the necessary skills, mapping out one's career through planning and goal setting is a foolproof way of reaching the top. Elane suggests that people map out their career paths with a simple formula: 2+3+5+10 equals success. Elane believes no one should be in a rank and file position for more than two years. He advises, "Learn everything you need to know from your position within two years. After that, you should move on. Be a supervisor for three years because it takes about that time to learn every single aspect of your job." Then, Elane explains that the next five years should be devoted to a junior management position and the last ten should be focused on senior management.

Of course, nobody is expected to follow this formula to the letter or, in this case, by the number. "Some people are able to discover this formula because they study," Elane claims. He explains his "study-work approach." "You study in order for you to work better. You work so you can have a subject for study." He believes that one can improve his or her craft by studying at least every two years.

Elane's early career was in teaching and training. He was the department head and a faculty member of the Behavioral Sciences Department of the University of Santo Thomas. Simultaneously, he was also a trainer for Ayala Life Insurance. After Ayala, he conducted various training programs as a management trainer.

"When I got into training, I discovered there was so much more to training so I ventured into HR," says Elane. With an M.A.degree in Psychology and an A.B.degree in Philosophy from UST, Elane went on to become the human resource research and administration manager for the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Strategic HR

In 1994, he became an HRD and management consultant for the University of Asia & the Pacific Foundation Inc. It was then that he realized that there was so much more to HR. Elane learned about strategic HR which is "basically making sure that HR is not only bringing in but also taking out people in the organization. Strategic HR is about using HR functions to influence the business of the company. It is about directly influencing the finance of the company."

Elane loves the strategic perspective of his work, which he calls "the ability to help propel the company to greater heights." Elane explains, "Our work does not only involve day to day operations. It involves developmental matters that allow us to grow."

EFREN Elane

PHOTO BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

Still a teacher

Presently, Elane is also a lecturer and facilitator of the Certificate Program Center of the College of St. Benilde, De La Salle University. He teaches graduate-school credited Organizational Development (OD) and Management Psychology to human resource management and development managers, supervisors, staff and consultants, and other professionals in need of OD exposure.

"Teaching is an offshoot of training," Elane declares. With his group in UST, he developed a curriculum for students' eventual employment and business administration. He proudly recounts that some of his students are now HR managers or directors in multinational and local companies. He knows he has been successful when "the people you manage or teach eventually turn out to be better or more successful than you are."

Hiring policies

For those aspiring to be a part of Golden ABC's family, the company looks for four distinct qualities from applicants. First, according to Elane, a Golden ABC employee must be entrepreneurial to adapt to a constantly growing and evolving company. Second, a model employee must be professional. Third, an applicant must posses an attitude of service. "People are not here to serve you, you are here to serve the company," says Elane. Finally, Elane looks for integrity in an individual because "it is difficult to be an executive if you cannot be trusted."

In return, employees of this young company can benefit from the company's competitive package and casual work environment. In fact, a quick tour of their Quezon City office will show an atmosphere that encourages employees to express their individuality and creativity. Golden ABC is aiming to be an employer of choice and thus encourages growth and diversity.

Elane did not come from a privileged family but his parents toiled to give him a good education. Benefiting from a hard earned education and an upbringing of values and good morals, Elane turned his faith around to get to where he is.

Already at the top, his goal setting and planning do not stop. For him, "People who are at the top are expected to do something other than what they are good at because at the top everything merges."

Grace under pressure

By Big Mouth

WORKING OOPS!

A FORMER co-worker, who had elevated stealing company time to an art, often indulged in napping during graveyard shifts in the call center where we both used to be employed. He would usually position himself at his workstation so that he was slumped over his keyboard, one hand resting on the keys, while the other hand was casually draped over the hands-free headset phone box, his ear set tucked snugly on one ear. To the untrained eye, he could pass as someone "busy" at work or someone with a really bad case of scoliosis.

One day, he was, as usual, nodding off when our supervisor chanced upon him. "Mr. Narco Leptic?" inquired our supervisor. This was met by silence so he repeated the query, this time a bit louder. Still, there was no sign of life prompting the boss to shout, "MR. NARCO LEPTIC! How dare you sleep on my shift?"

My former co-worker was, of course, startled awake, but being a pro, he immediately made the sign of the cross, mumbled a few words that ended in "amen," then smiled up to our boss and chirped, "Yes, Sir? Sorry, I was just praying."

Our boss knitted his brows, opened and closed his mouth, and finally managed to say, "Ah, well, fine . . . whatever. Carry on."

With the boss was gone, the nap bandit made a comical face at me as if to say, "Whew, that was bloody close, but I'm such a smart bugger, I fooled him!" Would you say it was a case of grace under pressure?

NERA

NERA is a premier solutions of microwave radio transmission, satellite communication, IT networking infrastructure and high value added electronics and contract manufacturing. Locally, it started to address the market in 1995 and was awarded major contracts from the emerging telecommunications operators of the country by then. Its presence has been continuously expanding and aggressively providing solutions in the telecom and IT industry.

Currently, we are looking for additional team players for the IT and Telecom business areas:

SALES ENGINEER

(IT Business Unit)

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Must have a degree in IT, ECE or related business courses;
2. With at least 3 years sales experience in handling accounts in IT and related industry;
3. Must have sound knowledge of technology both in IT hardware and software products and solutions;
4. With excellent understanding of Internet Infrastructure, LAN/WAN, Router/Switch Technologies;
5. Has strong customer service and teamwork orientation ;
6. Excellent command in verbal and written communications ;

SALES EXECUTIVE

(Telecom Business Unit)

QUALIFICATIONS:
1 Preferably ECE or Marketing graduate;
2 With at least 3 years sales and marketing experience handling accounts in Marine; Mining, Government sector and other related industry;
3 Knowledge in wireless transmission such as RF and satellite an advantage;
4 Must be computer literate at least MS Office;
5 Excellent command in verbal and written communications ;

Interested applicants are requested to submit their personal profile with recent passport picture to :

NERA PHILIPPINES, INC.
8th F/ Multinationalbancorporation Centre
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No 8452971 loc 207 / Fax : 8453512
Email : tes@neraphil.com.ph

Note: We shall reply only to candidates meeting the minimum requirements stated above. Thank you.

A Digital Post-Production Studio
Involved in Film/Broadcast Graphics is currently in need of:

Technical Support Associate
ECE, COE or Computer Science graduate
Knowledgeable in computer hardware and software troubleshooting
Familiar with LAN; Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Computer Graphics Artists
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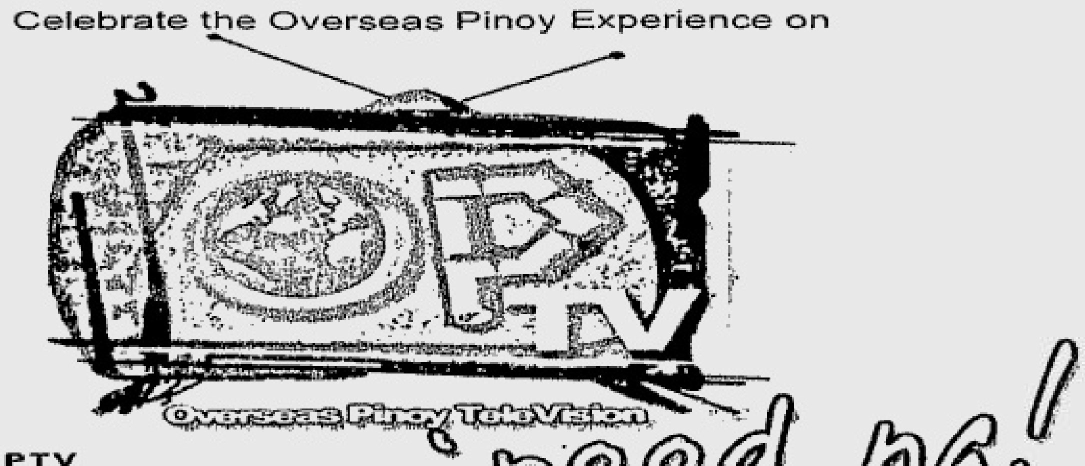

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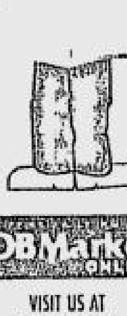

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"MAG-INGAT SA MGA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS"

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

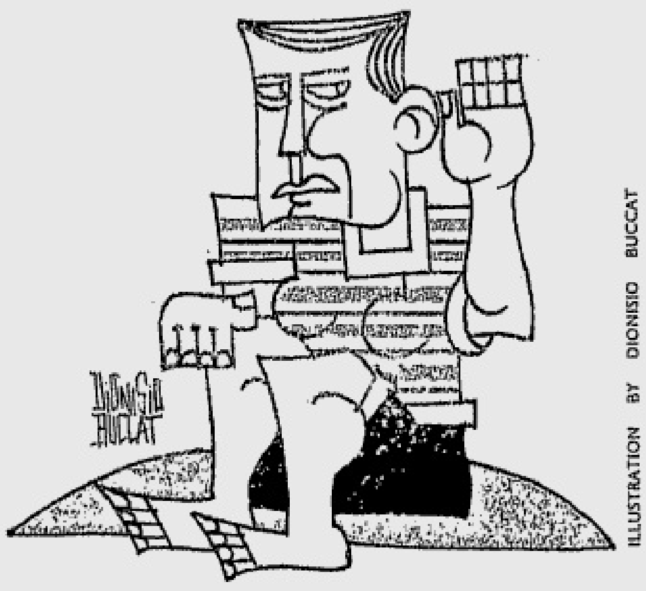
Be closed

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IT'S unthinkable how frequently, in the workplace, friendships are broken, reputations are damaged, opportunities are missed, and progress is stalled due to the imprudent use of our ears and mouth. Review the past seven days and count how many misunderstandings in your own workplace were caused by erroneous reporting or malicious talk. I guess no workplace is exempt from this ubiquitous "ear and mouth disease"—in fact I've been in offices that, strangely, seem to thrive on miscommunication!

Making matters worse is the presence of cell phones, television sets and radios in the workplace. Just last Monday, I visited an office where the employees' attention was on the "grilling" of the First Gentleman. I took a cab later, and guess what the driver's radio was tuned in to? Sometimes I envy the deaf and the mute—they can work in silence while I have to make an effort to "close" my ears, my mouth and my cell phone in order to stay focused on my tasks.

Sanity in the workplace depends largely on our ability to shut ourselves off from pointless, harmful or dangerous talk. "Closing" our ears and mouth to the verbal pollution around us opens us to our better selves and helps us gain the wisdom to know what truly matters. Much like counting from one to ten before uttering an angry word, it can spare us from unnecessary squabbles and ill advised decisions at work. How do we shut off? The image of Jesus in today's gospel, healing the deaf man with a speech impediment, is a powerful tool to begin with. Close your eyes, picture it and be opened. *(Email the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph.*)*



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Gospel. Mk 7:31-37

... Then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"... And (immediately) the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

Be opened!

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

ONE day, I celebrated a Mass in a home for deaf and mute children under the care of a congregation of priests. I expected a rather dry celebration with these children but instead I was so amazed to see their joyful faces, reflecting a live and meaningful expression of faith. I believe that Jesus, as portrayed in today's gospel, and through the love and care of the priests, opened the inner "ears and mouth" of these children. They felt at home with one another in spite of their physical disability.

At times, the workplace, instead of being a home for workers, becomes like a crowd of deaf and mute people. There are workers who are like pieces of furniture—uncommunicative, or if they do utter words, they are like machines emitting meaningless sounds or noise. There are supervisors who are like Instruction Manuals written in Greek—no one understands their work directions. There are those who do not listen to work instructions attentively or pretend to know their job perfectly, as if they are the inventor or designer of the equipment. Ignorance, prejudices and biases, anger, jealousy and pride are some inner blocks which prevent workers from communicating clearly in life and in work, making the workplace feel more like a hospital than a home. Jesus, the Healer, is the only One who can help to destroy those blocks in the worker.

Realizing that we need Jesus and calling Him to come to our workplace and heal us is already a healing which takes place in us. The Lord, through people, events or even our work itself, will come, touch us, and tell us "Ephphatha," "Be opened!" *(Email the author at* mfv@skyinet.net.*)*

Lack of jobs .....

From page K18

that are contributing to help alleviate social conditions such as housing and social services, while they renew the values of society. Fifth is the innate goodness, joyfulness and generosity of the ordinary Pinoy, who through the extended family system, willingly help relatives out of work and in need.

Perspective

I believe that democracy by its very nature can be messy but it is still the best system around. The problem in our country is the central role we give to politics relative to the economy and society. When the political circus begins, we get worried and preoccupied and everything else takes a back seat. I propose that we continue to work and heed the call of the gospel to "not to be anxious." But not to be indifferent either.

Recently, I came across a talk of Chiara Lubich, founder of the Focolare Movement in Switzerland, on the challenge of authentic politics. You see, the need for authentic politics is a global and not just a local concern. Her words console and give me hope. She proposed a "Politicians for Unity Movement," and a unique and positive view of politics. She said that a "response to a political vocation is an act of brotherhood, because one acts upon public matters and deals with questions that are of concern to others, wanting their good as if it were their own."

She also cited ideal politics as "the gathering into the unity of a common design the resources of persons and groups that provide the means for each one to freely pursue his or her own vocation. It also fosters collaboration among all, bringing together the need with the resources, the questions with the answers, instilling trust among all."

Key ideas

What are some of the key ideas of this movement of unity in politics? One is the concept that the vocation of politicians is an act of love, a personal calling that provide an answer to a social need or problem, to the sufferings of people and the needs of the times. Two, politicians understand that others, even political opponents, might have made their choices out of love and therefore worthy of respect. They are interested in supporting good proposals of their political adversaries. They can build the common good together. Third, politicians must listen to everyone including those who are "different." They make themselves one with everyone, so that they become capable of understanding and offering proposals. This is authentic political realism. Fourth, politicians cannot remain passive in the face of conflicts that can create deep divisions between politicians and citizens. They must make the first step to rebuild a breakdown in communication. Fifth, brotherhood has to become mutual, necessary for a correctly understood democracy. Finally, politicians are capable of loving the other parties as they love their own.

This Movement for Unity in Politics has gotten ahead in Europe and South America. It is not a Utopia. This in my view is what is needed in our country. Let us all dream and pray that our politicians will heed the call.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through email to advice@ancillaedc. com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

> 'I propose that we continue to work and heed the call of the gospel to 'not to be anxious.' But not to be indifferent either.'

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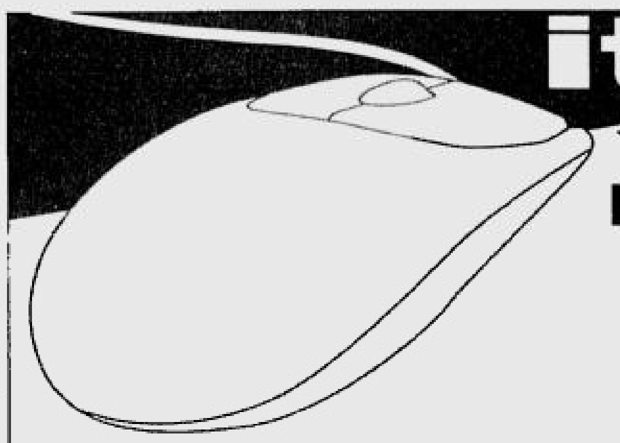

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

FRIENDS AT WORK

Storytelling teachers bring joy to kids

By Mario M. Banzon

WHEN the teachers of Sophia School in Meycauayan, Bulacan sat down to talk about a forthcoming school event in 1999, all they wanted was to put together a presentation and have fun. "We had to create something that would celebrate foundation day but we wanted to do something different," says teacher Rhodora Carable. "So we decided to put up a mini-stage play. We were not sure if we had any talent but we just did it."

What happened after the presentation was totally unexpected. Shortly after their play, the group received invitations to perform for birthday parties and social events from families who wanted to have educational and developmentally appropriate entertainment. After the initial performances, the group received more invitations. Amazed, the group thought of two things: either the organizers had no one else to invite or their performances were good. Of course, it was the latter.

Educational tool

It was with such an auspicious beginning that Tales and Tellers (Sophia School Storytellers) was born. Tales and Tellers is composed of teachers from Sophia School who aim to promote storytelling as a tool for "edutainment" (educational entertainment). During their free time, they conceptualize stories, perform in storytelling sessions, and even create their own costumes for their performances. When they first started, the group only had a handful of performers. In their recent performance at the Museo Pambata in Roxas Boulevard in Manila, the participants had already grown to 22.

Though most of the teachers had been conducting storytelling sessions in their own respective classrooms, some still had doubts about their theatrical capabilities. "At first, it seemed like we wouldn't be able to pull it off successfully," says Carable. "But, since we were close to each other, we persevered even more." After all, acting with friends was less uncomfortable than performing with new acquaintances. If things don't work out the way they should, at least friends can laugh together.

THE SOPHIA School Storytellers give their best in their performances for school children

Improvements

In fact, in earlier performances, the members admit that the plays were far from being perfect. Sometimes, the costumes were not put on properly or the timing was off. But the group believes that their craft is constantly evolving. *"Tingin ko marami sa kanila na-develop yung* talent," (I think their talents developed in the course of the performances) says Carable. "Before, *akala kasi nila wala silang* talent. *Ngayon, lumalabas na sila sa kanilang mga* shell." (They initially thought they had no talent but now they are starting to come out of their shell.)

But it's not just their acting and writing capabilities that are being enhanced. The teachers' creativity and imagination in finding solutions to problems have also improved. For example, one teacher used her storytelling techniques in her science class. To enable the children to understand the gravitational turns and positions of the Milky Way, she asked them to form a circle and move like the planets. The exercise made the lesson easily understandable and fun.

Friendships have also flourished. Though most of them have never met before they worked in school, they treat each other like college buddies. *"Maiingay kami"* (We are a noisy bunch) was how teacher Jo-Ann Solano described the group. Solano, who is new to the faculty and the storytelling activities, says it's not difficult to mingle in the group, "If you are new here, you won't feel like a stranger," she says.

Getting along

Perhaps, one of the reasons the group members get along so well is their age. The members of Tales and Tellers are relatively young. "We all like out-of-the-box thinking," says administrator Lorenzo Abacan. They are also not afraid to try new things and discover new possibilities. They are obviously not overwhelmed by their own limitations. "It's more than a friendship, it's a family," says Carable.

But more than making friends and discovering talents, the Sophia School Storytellers have a mission. *"Sa tingin ko, hindi ka makakapag-transform ng bata kung hindi ka rin mismo buo sa sarili mo,"* (I think you can not mold a child if you are not whole as an individual) says Carable. "We are really trying our best to be whole."

Outreach programs

SOPHIA SCHOOL

STORYTELLERS feel part of one big family

They have also been involved lately in some outreach programs. Last July, the group staged a free storytelling session for public school children at the Museo Pambata in connection with National Book Month. At present, the group is also being tapped by some of the officers of the Association of Childhood Education International – Philippines (ACEI-Phils) to help in their outreach programs in celebration of National Children's Month this coming October.

With all these positive results, these storytelling teachers find all the extra work worthwhile as they become better teachers for their students and others.

SHARE A FRIENDS AT WORK STORY

ARE you part of a group of friends from college or at work who support each other or help others? If so, share your story with People at Work. Tell us how you and your friends face the challenges of the workplace or work together on a project that is dear to your hearts. You can write your story yourself or a PaW writer can interview your group and write the article. And yes, we will print a photo of your *barkada* in our pages! Send your suggestions through email to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph, fax at (632) 897-4811 or postal mail to the People at Work Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague St., Makati City.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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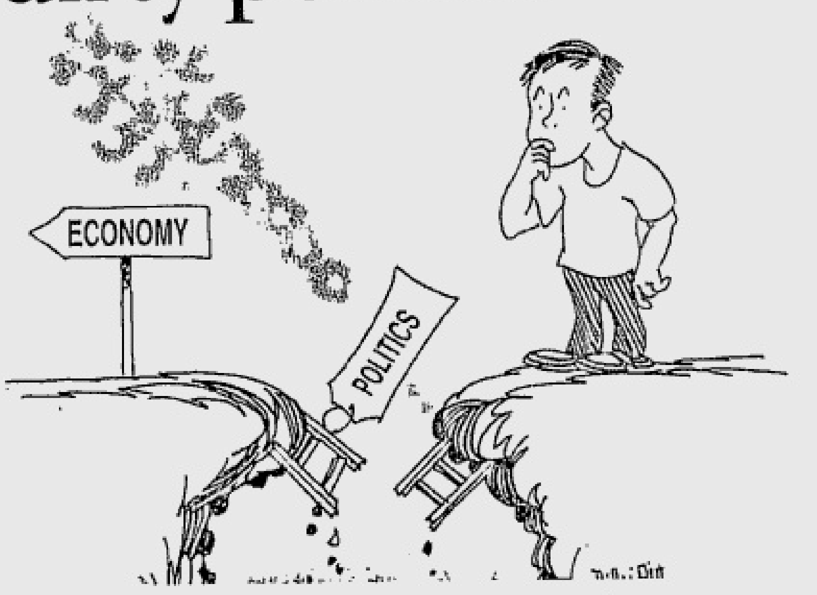
Lack of jobs is caused by dirty politics



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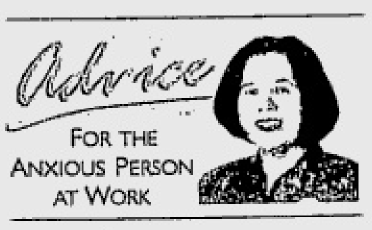
By Tita Datu Puangco



Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM turning 21 and will soon be graduating from the university. I am very disappointed by the way our country is being run by politicians. The daily news shows how disunited and irresponsible are those governing our country. Politicians are so concerned with promoting their own personal interests at the expense of the country and the economy. I witnessed NEDA Secretary Romulo Neri over television pleading for politicians to stop their bickering because of the negative impact on the economy. Personally, I think dirty politics is the curse of our country and our people.

I have several relatives who finished university last year but cannot find jobs. How can we attract investments into the country if we continue with the mudslinging in Congress and the absence of national security and order? What options are left to us young people? Do we have to go abroad to find a bright future?

Frustrated Student

Your concern over dirty politics resonates with my own disappointment. I know of several politicians today who were part of the protest movement in the late sixties. Yet, they are so much part of the dirty politics and corruption that most of us ordinary citizens deplore. Ironically, while dirty politics exist, I still have reasons to be optimistic about this country.

Slowly, but surely, we are starting to mature as a people. But typical of us, we tend to judge situations as black and white. We instead have to take a balanced view. What are the positive things I see? One is the attention given by enterprises to the issue of corporate governance. This will ensure more responsible behavior from corporate leaders. Another is the rise of micro lending that enables those who are not able to get credit from banks to avail of credit to set up micro enterprises. It is one system that has alleviated the plight of the poor through the extension of credit and allowed self-employment for those who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.

The third positive development is the rise of the Philippines as an outsourcing center for services generating plenty of jobs today up to the next decade. Fourth is the rise of Christian lay movements and non-governmental organizations

LACKOFJOBS/K16

sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

September 7, 2003

Alwynn C. Javier
Poetry in Filipino

Cristina Monica L. Buensalido
Kabataan Essay in English

Niles Jordan Breis
Essay in Filipino

it's Bright New Lights

By The SIM Staff
Photographs
by Rudy Esperas

A diverse set of writers makes up this year's winners of the 53rd Palanca Awards

Fountain pens and pieces of paper as well as souped-up CPUs and keyboards transformed into instruments of magic once again when the winners gathered for the 53rd Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature at the Manila Peninsula's Rigodon Ballroom. The country's most prestigious literary contest continues to maintain its historic preeminence in an age when technology continues to become more pervasive. On this evening, in this ballroom, writing reigns supreme. Included in the writing community's parade of talents were past winners featured in SIM, such as Rosario Lucero, Floy Quintos and Norman Wilwayco, among others. In our yearly ritual of honoring the written word, SIM introduces some winners in the Palanca Awards' formidable honor roll, with two poets, a screenwriter, two essayists and three fictionists—one of whom earns entrance into the illustrious Palanca Hall of Fame. Read on and see why we feel like saying, "Bravo!"

Ruel S. De Vera

Reynaldo A. Duque
Hall of Fame

Isidoro M. Cruz
Poetry in English

Ricardo P. Fernando III
Futuristic Fiction in Filipino

Jose Maria Manalo
Screenplay in Filipino

Renato C. Vibiesca
Short Story for Children in Filipino

Palanca by the Numbers

Year the Palanca Awards began: **1950**
Number of categories in 1950: **1 (Short Story in English and Filipino)**
Number of categories in 2003: **21**
Total number of awards given since 1950: **1,605**
Total prize money given in 2003: **P534,000**
Total number of judges in 2003: **60**
Total number of entries in 2003: **770**
Category with most entries: **Short Story with 194 combined**
Category with least entries: **Kabataan Essay with 14 combined**
Number of first prizes necessary for the Hall of Fame: **5**
Number of writers in the Hall of Fame: **15**
Deadline for next year's Palanca Awards entries: **Midnight, April 30, 2004**

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A diverse set of writers makes up this year's winners of the 53rd Palanca Awards

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Join in the applause as we go through the entire honor roll

Reynaldo A. Duque

The Accidental Writer

TO date, he has won a total of 88 writing awards, 39 of them first prizes and 19 Palanca awards, and all because Reynaldo A. Duque wanted to prove that Ilocanos can write as well as the next fellow.

"I was the first Ilocano writer to win the Palanca in 1974 and the first to land in the Hall of Fame," says this Candon, Ilocos Sur native, who copped his sixth first place Palanca win with his short story in Filipino in this year's awards. Duque has proved that many times over as a prolific trilingual poet, essayist, novelist, short story writer, translator, *komiks* writer, playwright, critic and radio scriptwriter, whose output has seen print in such diverse publications as Gospel komiks, Bannawag Magasin and Mills & Boon romance paperbacks. This from a guy who claims to have become a writer by accident. He had enrolled at a pre-law course at UST and later, MLQU, in deference to his father's wish, but a providential win in a short story writing contest when he was barely 17 showed him where his real talents lie.

But it takes more than providence to make a living out of writing, says this editor-in-chief of Liwayway Magasin. "You need discipline. Everyday, except Sunday which I spend with my family, I get up at 3 a.m. to write. I'm now writing another epic of 10,000 lines." An earlier epic, "Candon," won for him a cool million pesos in the 1998 Centennial Literary Awards, "the award I savor most," says Duque, 57.

While picking up awards may seem routine for him, Duque is grounded enough to acknowledge his limits. "Before I write, I ask myself: Do I have anything new to say about this subject? If not, then I drop my pen."

He definitely has a lot to say in his winning story, "*Apong* Simon," which he says is based on the life of Serapio Gambito, one of three revolutionaries who buried Gregorio del Pilar when the young general was shot down by American forces at Pasong Tirad.

Duque has three children with wife Teresita Rodriguez. His youngest, Reynaldo Bienvenido, won in the Palanca Kabataan Essay, Filipino division, in 1991, says this proud father.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Excerpt

From "*Apong Simon*"
By Reynaldo A. Duque
First Prize, Short Story in Filipino

Sira ba ang ulo ko? Gayon pa rin ang paniniwala ng Amang. Sa kabila ng mga taon, hindi pa rin matanggap ng Amang na binigo ko ang kanyang pangarap para sa akin. Na mamamatay pa rin akong pulubi dahil sa pagiging manunulat ko. At hindi lamang siya. Pati rin ang alkalde na nagmula sa lahi ni Kane na pumaslang sa pinakadakilang anak ng Candon (siya pa rin ang mayor—ang hari—dahil mayroon siyang *private army*). Hindi pa rin naniniwala ang mga pulitiko sa aming bayan na dapat na kilalanin bilang bayani si Apong Simon. Na ang lumang balong-Kastila sa Bagani Ubbog ay tunay na kapiraso ng kasaysayan ng Kailokuhan.

Hanggang sa ngayon, marami pa ring namumungang punungkahoy sa loob ng lumang sementeryo sa Bagani Ubbog. Ngunit tulad ng dati, nandidiri pa ring kumain ang aking mga kanayon sa mga ito. Ayaw nilang umunawa. Hindi nila nauunawan ang tunay na kahulugan ng agimat na sinasabi ni Apong Simon na taglay ng bawat nilalang. Hindi pa rin nila naiintindihan kung bakit binuhusan ako noon ni Apong Simon ng tubig na sinalok mula sa lumang balong-Kastila at saka sinabing ako ay pag-aari na niyon.

Katulad ng lumang balong-Kastila, katulad ng lumang sementeryo, malilimutan din si Apong Simon sa paglipas ng panahon. Kukupas din ang kanyang alaala, tulad ng pagkupas ng kasaysayang kanyang binagtas, kinabilangan at pinag-ingatan. Gayon man, ang Bagani Ubbog ay mananatiling Bagani Ubbog. Kung bakit, dahil sa mga taong katulad ni Apong Simon. Sila ang mga lihim na sugo ng kasaysayan at ng panahon upang matuklasan ng bawat salinlahi ang agimat na dapat nitong angkinin. Upang manatili ang mga bayan at magiging buo ang mga bansa. Ang bawat bayan ay may sariling Apong Simon. Kung wala ang mga katulad niya, wala sanang maitatayong bayan kagaya ng Candon. Wala sana ngayong matatawag na Bagani Ubbog. Hindi sana mananatiling buhay ang mga alamat…

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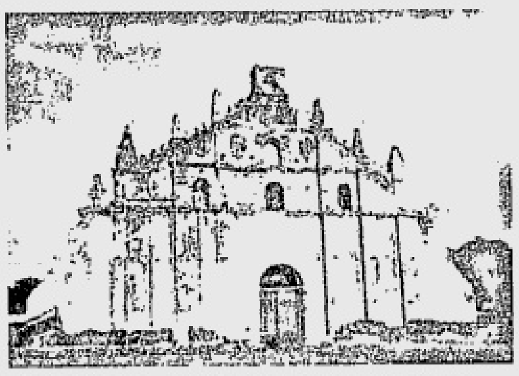

Paoay Church, one of the churches that will be visited by **"Palitada Lecture+Series,"** an education program by the Ayala Museum. A tour of other heritage sites will also be visited aside from some churches on September 13. For details, call the Ayala Museum at 812-1191 local 106 or email pmieano@ayalamuseum.com. For more of *This Week*, see page 7.

Alwynn C. Javier

The Voice of Memory

ALTHOUGH he went by the nom de guerre "Martial Law Baby," and wrote a winning collection of ten poems with a remarkable awareness of social realities seemingly alien to his generation, 26-year-old Alwynn Javier did not have any real experience of that turbulent time in history. "What we have from those years are romantic childhood memories, and it is only now that we are beginning to grapple with the irony between history and personal memory."

Social awareness is a big deal for this development studies graduate of the Ateneo, who originally got into economics at UP before shifting courses and schools. Today, Javier, who grew up amidst the open spaces of Isabela, works with the land administration and management project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "I have an equal passion for writing and doing development work—they both don't pay much, and you do it because you want to do it." He was at UP long enough to write verse plays as Chairperson of The UP Repertory Company, and began writing poetry as Editor-in-Chief of Heights, Ateneo's official literary publication. *"Ang Magneto Sa Gitna ng Aking Daigdig"* wins Javier his second Palanca. Although the poems speak of his concerns as part of a generation, the carrier poem boils down to a universal experience: love. "It's about the forces that push and pull us. It's a matter of inevitables, not choices. That's what makes the experience bittersweet."

Alya B. Honasan

Excerpt

From **"Ang Magneto sa Gitna ng Aking Daigdig"**
By Alwynn C. Javier
First Prize, Poetry in Filipino

Ang pamimilian: ikaw o ang kabundukan.

Ipakukuyom mo sa akin
ang isang maliit na bato ng pag-ibig
na dadalhin ko pag-akyat sa bago kong daigdig.

Gagamitin ko ang bato
sa pagpapaibig ng mga taong
piniling pagsilbihan:
mga babaeng walang anak,
mga tribong walang kasuotan,
matatandang walang kinabukasan.

Ngunit ano't sinasadya ko ang bawat bayan
ay nananadya rin ang iyong kapangyarihan?
Anong bigat nitong pabaon mo't
kinakarga kong pag-ibig!
Magnetong hango sa gitna ng daigdig,
humihila sa bawat hakbang,
tumutulak sa bawat lakdaw.

Tinatalunton ko ang dalisdis
ay nagkakalaglagan ang mga batong
bumabagsak lamang sa aking paanan.
Gayong di maputik ay umaalsa ang lupa't
nangungunyapit sa aking talampakan.

Ang pagsubok: pagsisilbi o pag-ibig.

Ipupukol ko ang bato sa malayong-malayo
upang lamunin ng bangin at kadiliman.

Magpapatuloy akong walang imik.
Ngunit mababagabag ang pananahimik:
mababagabag ang lupang humahawak
sa mapapadapa namang talahib;
uungol ang hangin kasabay
ng pagaypay ng papabulusok na ibon;
bubulwak ang tubig na raragasa
patungo sa walang-hanggang talon.

Saan ako kakapit sa paglindol ng iyong pag-ibig?
Dadagundong ang buong kabundukan
at walang ibang direksyon kundi paakyat
sa tuktok, kung saan abot ang kaligtasang
handog ng kalangitan.

Hihilahod ako tungo sa diyos ng alingawngaw,
ipagsisigaw ang lahat ng hilahil
ng katawang pinaghihilahan ng kung-
anong bighani ng kadakilaan
at batubalani ng kairalan.

Ang sagot: langit o pagpapatiwakal.

Ganito marahil ang nakita ng mga nauna.
Sa kinatatayuan kong dalisdis:
abot-kamay ang langit, ngunit abot-
tanaw ang maliit na bato ng iyong pag-ibig,
nagliliwanag sa ilalim ng tubig,
umaapoy sa gitna ng aking daigdig.

Reynaldo A. Duque

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TO date, he has won a total of 88 writing awards, 39 of them first prizes and 19 Palanca awards, and all because Reynaldo A. Duque wanted to prove that Ilocanos can write as well as the next fellow.

"I was the first Ilocano writer to win the Palanca in 1974 and the first to land in the Hall of Fame," says this Candon, Ilocos Sur native, who copped his sixth first place Palanca win with his short story in Filipino in this year's awards. Duque has proved that many times over as a prolific trilingual poet, essayist, novelist, short story writer, translator, *komiks* writer, playwright, critic and radio scriptwriter, whose output has seen print in such diverse publications as Gospel komiks, Bannawag Magasin and Mills & Boon romance paperbacks. This from a guy who claims to have become a writer by accident. He had enrolled at a pre-law course at UST and later, MLQU, in deference to his father's wish, but a providential win in a short story writing contest when he was barely 17 showed him where his real talents lie.

But it takes more than providence to make a living out of writing, says this editor-in-chief of Liwayway Magasin. "You need discipline. Everyday, except Sunday which I spend with my family, I get up at 3 a.m. to write. I'm now writing another epic of 10,000 lines." An earlier epic, "Candon," won for him a cool million pesos in the 1998 Centennial Literary Awards, "the award I savor most," says Duque, 57.

While picking up awards may seem routine for him, Duque is grounded enough to acknowledge his limits. "Before I write, I ask myself: Do I have anything new to say about this subject? If not, then I drop my pen."

He definitely has a lot to say in his winning story, "*Apong* Simon," which he says is based on the life of Serapio Gambito, one of three revolutionaries who buried Gregorio del Pilar when the young general was shot down by American forces at Pasong Tirad.

Duque has three children with wife Teresita Rodriguez. His youngest, Reynaldo Bienvenido, won in the Palanca Kabataan Essay, Filipino division, in 1991, says this proud father.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Excerpt

From "*Apong* Simon"
By Reynaldo A. Duque
First Prize, Short Story in Filipino

Sira ba ang ulo ko? Gayon pa rin ang paniniwala ng Amang. Sa kabila ng mga taon, hindi pa rin matanggap ng Amang na binigo ko ang kanyang pangarap para sa akin. Na mamamatay pa rin akong pulubi dahil sa pagiging manunulat ko. At hindi lamang siya. Pati rin ang alkalde na nagmula sa lahi ni Kane na pumaslang sa pinakadakilang anak ng Candon (siya pa rin ang mayor—ang hari—dahil mayroon siyang *private army*). Hindi pa rin naniniwala ang mga pulitiko sa aming bayan na dapat na kilalanin bilang bayani si Apong Simon. Na ang lumang balong-Kastila sa Bagani Ubbog ay tunay na kapiraso ng kasaysayan ng Kailokuhan.

Hanggang sa ngayon, marami pa ring namumungang punungkahoy sa loob ng lumang sementeryo sa Bagani Ubbog. Ngunit tulad ng dati, nandidiri pa ring kumain ang aking mga kanayon sa mga ito. Ayaw nilang umunawa. Hindi nila nauunawan ang tunay na kahulugan ng agimat na sinasabi ni Apong Simon na taglay ng bawat nilalang. Hindi pa rin nila naiintindihan kung bakit binuhusan ako noon ni Apong Simon ng tubig na sinalok mula sa lumang balong-Kastila at saka sinabing ako ay pag-aari na niyon.

Katulad ng lumang balong-Kastila, katulad ng lumang sementeryo, malilimutan din si Apong Simon sa paglipas ng panahon. Kukupas din ang kanyang alaala, tulad ng pagkupas ng kasaysayang kanyang binagtas, kinabilangan at pinag-ingatan. Gayon man, ang Bagani Ubbog

ay mananatiling Bagani Ubbog. Kung bakit, dahil sa mga taong katulad ni Apong Simon. Sila ang mga lihim na sugo ng kasaysayan at ng panahon upang matuklasan ng bawat salinlahi ang agimat na dapat nitong angkinin. Upang manatili ang mga bayan at magiging buo ang mga bansa. Ang bawat bayan ay may sariling Apong Simon. Kung wala ang mga katulad niya, wala sanang maitatayong bayan kagaya ng Candon. Wala sana ngayong matatawag na Bagani Ubbog. Hindi sana mananatiling buhay ang mga alamat…

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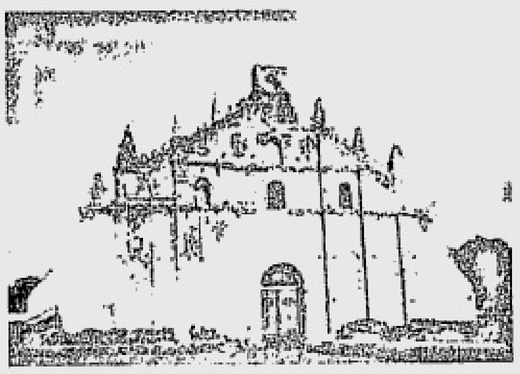


Paoay Church, one of the churches that will be visited by **"Palitada Lecture+Series,"** an education program by the Ayala Museum. A tour of other heritage sites will also be visited aside from some churches on September 13. For details, call the Ayala Museum at 812-1191 local 106 or email pmleano@ayalamuseum.com. For more of *This Week*, see page 7.

Alwynn C. Javier

The Voice of Memory

ALTHOUGH he went by the nom de guerre "Martial Law Baby," and wrote a winning collection of ten poems with a remarkable awareness of social realities seemingly alien to his generation, 26-year-old Alwynn Javier did not have any real experience of that turbulent time in history. "What we have from those years are romantic childhood memories, and it is only now that we are beginning to grapple with the irony between history and personal memory."

Social awareness is a big deal for this development studies graduate of the Ateneo, who originally got into economics at UP before shifting courses and schools. Today, Javier, who grew up amidst the open spaces of Isabela, works with the land administration and management project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "I have an equal passion for writing and doing development work—they both don't pay much, and you do it because you want to do it." He was at UP long enough to write verse plays as Chairperson of The UP Repertory Company, and began writing poetry as Editor-in-Chief of Heights, Ateneo's official literary publication. *"Ang Magneto Sa Gitna ng Aking Daigdig"* wins Javier his second Palanca. Although the poems speak of his concerns as part of a generation, the carrier poem boils down to a universal experience: love. "It's about the forces that push and pull us. It's a matter of inevitables, not choices. That's what makes the experience bittersweet."

Alya B. Honasan

Excerpt

From **"Ang Magneto sa Gitna ng Aking Daigdig"**
By Alwynn C. Javier
First Prize, Poetry in Filipino

Ang pamimilian: ikaw o ang kabundukan.

Ipakukuyom mo sa akin
ang isang maliit na bato ng pag-ibig
na dadalhin ko pag-akyat sa bago kong daigdig.

Gagamitin ko ang bato
sa pagpapaibig ng mga taong
piniling pagsilbihan:
mga babaeng walang anak,
mga tribong walang kasuotan,
matatandang walang kinabukasan.

Ngunit ano't sinasadya ko ang bawat bayan
ay nananadya rin ang iyong kapangyarihan?
Anong bigat nitong pabaon mo't
kinakarga kong pag-ibig!
Magnetong hango sa gitna ng daigdig,
humihila sa bawat hakbang,
tumutulak sa bawat lakdaw.

Tinatalunton ko ang dalisdis
ay nagkakalaglagan ang mga batong
bumabagsak lamang sa aking paanan.
Gayong di maputik ay umaalsa ang lupa't
nangungunyapit sa aking talampakan.

Ang pagsubok: pagsisilbi o pag-ibig.

Ipupukol ko ang bato sa malayong-malayo
upang lamunin ng bangin at kadiliman.

Magpapatuloy akong walang imik.
Ngunit mababagabag ang pananahimik:
mababagabag ang lupang humahawak
sa mapapadapa namang talahib;
uungol ang hangin kasabay
ng pagaypay ng papabulusok na ibon;
bubulwak ang tubig na raragasa
patungo sa walang-hanggang talon.

Saan ako kakapit sa paglindol ng iyong pag-ibig?
Dadagundong ang buong kabundukan
at walang ibang direksyon kundi paakyat
sa tuktok, kung saan abot ang kaligtasang
handog ng kalangitan.

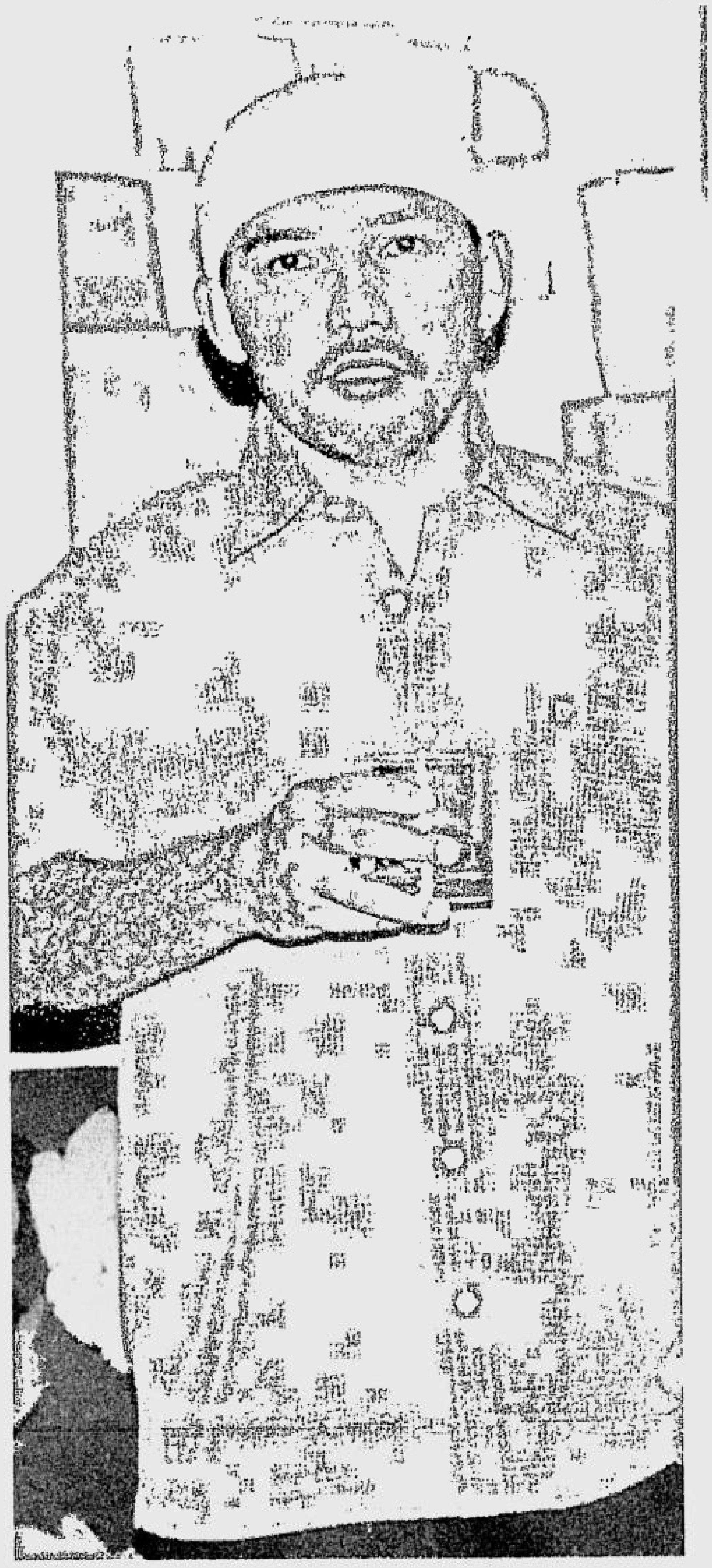
Hihilahod ako tungo sa diyos ng alingawngaw,
ipagsisigaw ang lahat ng hilahil
ng katawang pinaghihilahan ng kung-
anong bighani ng kadakilaan
at batubalani ng kairalan.

Ang sagot: langit o pagpapatiwakal.

Ganito marahil ang nakita ng mga nauna.
Sa kinatatayuan kong dalisdis:
abot-kamay ang langit, ngunit abot-
tanaw ang maliit na bato ng iyong pag-ibig,
nagliliwanag sa ilalim ng tubig,
umaapoy sa gitna ng aking daigdig.

Niles Jordan Breis

Exposing the Town Witch



TO her townmates in Tabaco, Albay, she was notorious as Angela *buruka* (witch), who would pour fetid urine and invectives on anyone who dared seek shelter under her eaves when caught in a sudden downpour. Niles Jordan Breis knew her as such during his elementary grades, and was surprised to know from his high school lessons that the hated neighbor was in fact the poet Angela Manalang-Gloria.

"Knowing that she was right next door stirred regional pride in me," recalls Breis, who won first in the Palanca essay category, Filipino division, for "Angela Buruka." She gave fellow Tabaqueños a sense of cultural identity, says this poet and former seminarian who confessed that the mysterious Manalang-Gloria affirmed his decision to become a writer.

For 15 years, says Breis, he hugged Manalang-Gloria's secret life close to his chest, mentioning it only in passing to other writer friends. When Manalang-Gloria died in obscurity some years ago, Breis knew the time had come to reveal the private persona of Angela Buruka and hopefully reclaim the glory her townmates still begrudge her. "She was one of the most gifted poets among the country's first generation of writers in English," he says. "She was a sheer rarity during her time, pitting herself and her poetry against a somewhat prudish and chauvinistic world."

Exposing the poet as a witch might not sit well with her heirs, but Breis is confident that he has written "an uneven homage, at once painful and affirming."

Of his own hidden life, this freelance copywriter and public affairs consultant writes, "I'm in my early 30s. My father died before I was born and my mother became a widow twice. I'm not married but I have a four-year-old son named Emilio Paolo whose mother has just died."

This is Breis' second Palanca win, the first in 1999 when he won Third Prize, also for essay in Filipino.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Excerpt

From ***"Kung Tawagin Siya'y Angela Buruka: Sa Alaala ni Angela Manalang-Gloria"***

By Niles Jordan Breis

First Prize, Essay in Filipino

Bato. Batong dalig-makaraskas, may katulisan at, ayon sa matatanda, buhay. Ito ang ilang ulit ko ring ipinukol sa bahay ng aking bagong mortal na kaaway. Lusot ang mga batong yaon sa malalaking bintanang *capiz* na madalas ay bukas. Palibhasa, lahat ng bintana ay pulos nasa ikalawang *escalon* o palapag na sadyang napakataas para akyatin ng sinumang magtangkang magnakaw; ang buong ibaba naman ay bodega. Sa bawat ipinukol na bato, laging may nababasag na kung ano, at saka lamang ako sisibad nang takbo; didistansya nang ilang metro para huminto at hihintaying dumungaw si *Angela Buruka*.

Pero nagsawa rin ako sa kababato sa pangamba na baka kalauna'y ipahuli ako sa pulis. Sinarili ko ang isinakatuparang "paghihiganti." Hindi naman nagsawa ang mga taga-amin sa kalilibak kay *Angela Buruka*. Isa na rito ang tungkol sa kaniyang pagiging matapobre.

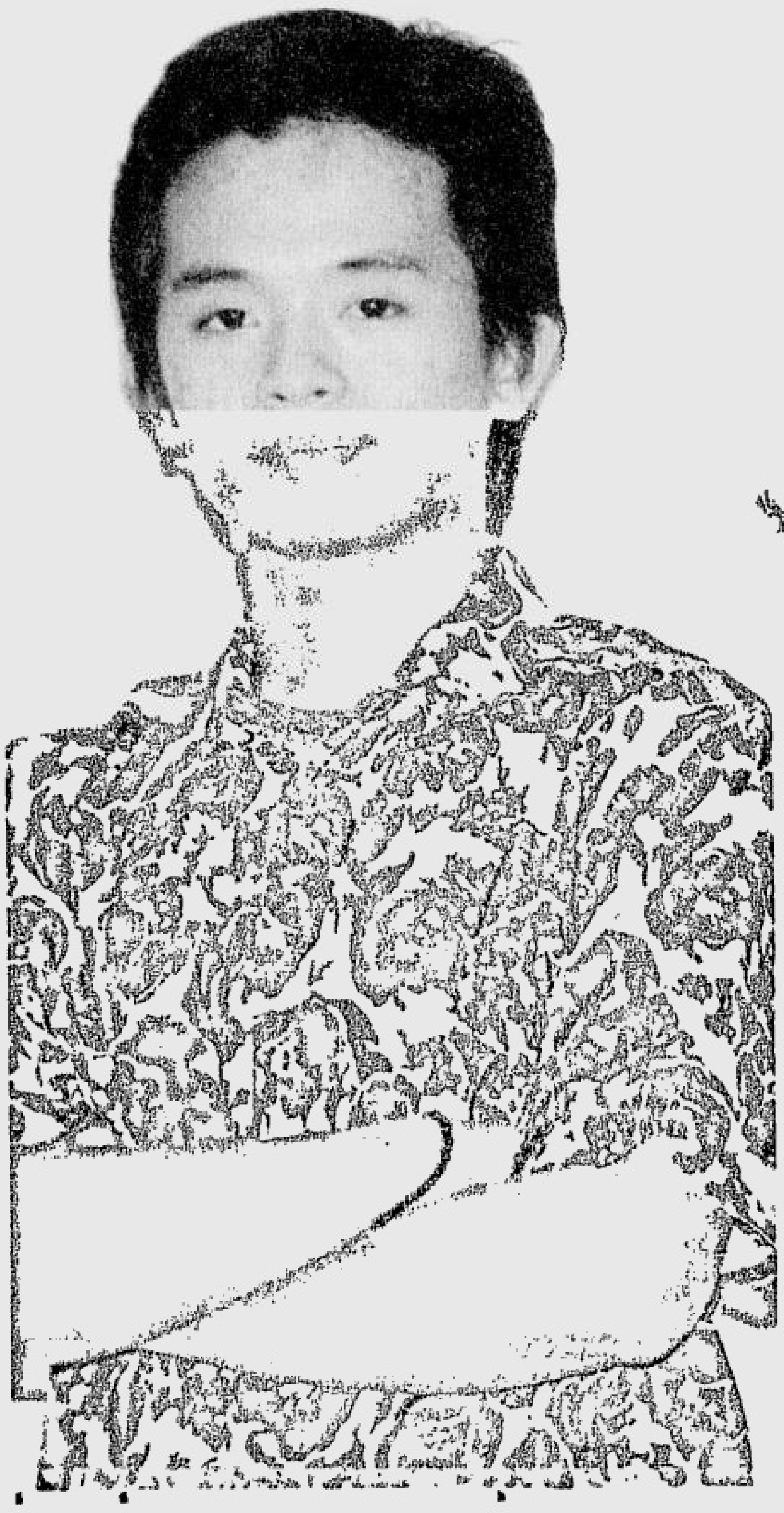
Sikad-sikad ang tawag namin sa *pedicab*; *parasikad-sikad* naman ang tawag sa pumapasada ng *sikad-sikad*. Sila ang nagpapatotoo na matapobre nga si *Angela Buruka*. Sa tuwing sasakay daw ito ng *sikad-sikad*, nakatakip ang ilong, at pagbaba, iniitsa ang barya-baryang bayad sa halip na iabot nang maayos. Minsan, may pahabol pa raw na, "Magkarigos ka!" (Maligo ka!) Ayon naman sa ilang sarili niyang manggagawa sa niyugan, lagi raw ipinamumukha ni *Angela Buruka* na mga bantay-salakay sila. Nagtitiis na lang daw sila pagkat ayaw masisante. Inamin mismo ni *Angela Buruka* ang bagay na ito sa panayam na isinaaklat nina Ed Alegre at Doreen Fernandez. Sa *Writers and Their Milieu*, tila ipinagmamalaki pa nga ni *Angela Buruka* na siya lahat ang nag-aasikaso ng buong niyugan (at maging sa lahat ng kaniyang negosyo) pagkat hindi umano mapagkakatiwalaan ang kahit sino.

Sino na lang ba ang pinagkakatiwalaan ng isang makatang tulad niya?

Ayun! Inimik ko na rin ang salitang "makata." Aksidente pa nga, kung tutuusin, ang pagkakatuklas ko na dito pala sa bayan ng Tabaco (ngayo'y Lungsod ng Tabaco) naninirahan ang isa sa mga haligi ng panulaang Ingles sa bansa.

Ricardo P. Fernando III

Writing His Own Future



BACK when Ricardo Fernando III was still studying at the Philippine Science High School, he knew that he wasn't really good at math. So he concentrated on writing. "Whenever it's Linggo ng Wika, I would get assigned to do the writing," he says in Filipino. Futuristic fiction, of course, is a category reserved for short stories depicting the country a half-century hence. Now a third-year Malikhaing Pagsulat major at the University of the Philppines, the 19-year-old Fernando—who goes by the nickname Jay—has won his first ever Palanca Award, a First Prize at that.

The winning story, "*Bagong* Developments *sa Pagbuo ng Mito ng Lungsod*," began life two years ago as a story Fernando was planning to submit for the 40th UP National Writers Workshop. Its roots lie in Fernando's visiting some injured soldiers. "That's when I began thinking that war is stupid because so many people are getting hurt," he says. "That was also when terrorism was becoming more common so I thought about what the Philippines would be like if we got caught in something like that." That dark vision of our future not only helped him make it to the workshop as a writing fellow but also turned into Palanca gold. Believe it or not, it's his first taste of futuristic fiction—he previously wrote only short stories and poetry—and took three months to complete. "It's a big deal to win the Palanca especially for young writers like myself," he says. Finishing a short novel for his thesis is what the immediate future holds for this emerging young talent.

Ruel S. De Vera

Excerpt

From **"*Bagong* Developments *sa Pagbuo ng Mito ng Lungsod*"**

By Ricardo P. Fernando III

First Prize, Futuristic Fiction in Filipino

Alas tres impunto, hapon. Nabura ang buong Maynila nang lumapag mismo sa kilometro zero *Ang Bagong Bomba*. Nilamon ng pagsabog ang lahat ng nasa 600-mile radius at isang malaking hukay na lamang ang natira. Ngunit ayon sa deklarasyon ng mga Nagkakaisang Bansa sa Asya, hindi kasangkot ang Pilipinas sa digma.

Abo. Nalulunod siya sa piye-piyeng abo. Sa huling hiningang nailabas niya sa nagsisikip na mga baga, wala nang nagawa si Stan kundi ang yakapin ang kanyang shoulder bag. *Mag-ingat sa mga magnanakaw*, sabi sa karatulang nakapaskil sa puno ng mangga—

Awit ng Puno ng Lunsod

Retratong sepia print ang lunsod nang hapong
mapula ang hangin sa neutron emission
at ang ulap ay mapanghing dilaw
habang kalsada ay lilang mapusyaw.

Isang punong mangga, sa kanyang kahubdan,
ang nananahimik at nakamasid lang
sa singaw ng bangkay ng lupa, sa langit
na ilang sandali'y luluha ng acid.

Retratong burado ang puno ng lunsod
binura ng apoy, ng biglang pagsabog
at ang dating sangang lilim ng pulubi'y
naging alaala ng ating sarili.

Alas singko disisyete, hapon. Unti-unting kumalat sa kalangitan ang Dilim.

Cristina Monica L. Buensalido

One for the Family

THE moment Cristina Monica "Monique" Buensalido heard about the theme for this year's Kabataan Essay—the Palanca's exposition category exclusively for high school students—she knew it would be a cinch to write. "It was about family," the 18-year-old Buensalido says. "I told myself, 'Okay, this is sooo going to inspire me.' " Having finished high school at De La Salle-Santiago Zobel, Buensalido doesn't mince words about her affection for her closest relatives. "You can ask all my friends, they'll all tell you what I love the most is my family."

Now an Ateneo freshman taking up Management majoring in Communication Technology, Buensalido has been writing virtually since childhood. "I was always fascinated by the stories my father read to me," she explains. "I've always been amazed by how words capture images." Buensalido has gone a step further, as she has been writing a column called "Youthspeak" for another daily since 1996.

True to form, Buensalido took only one week to write the essay that earned First Prize, a feat that still drives her to gushing. "This is really big for me," she says. "It's phenomenal." Really big things might still be in store for her as she continues on her literary journey. "I just can't imagine not writing," she says. Neither can we.

Ruel S. De Vera

Excerpt

From **"Learning to Fly"**

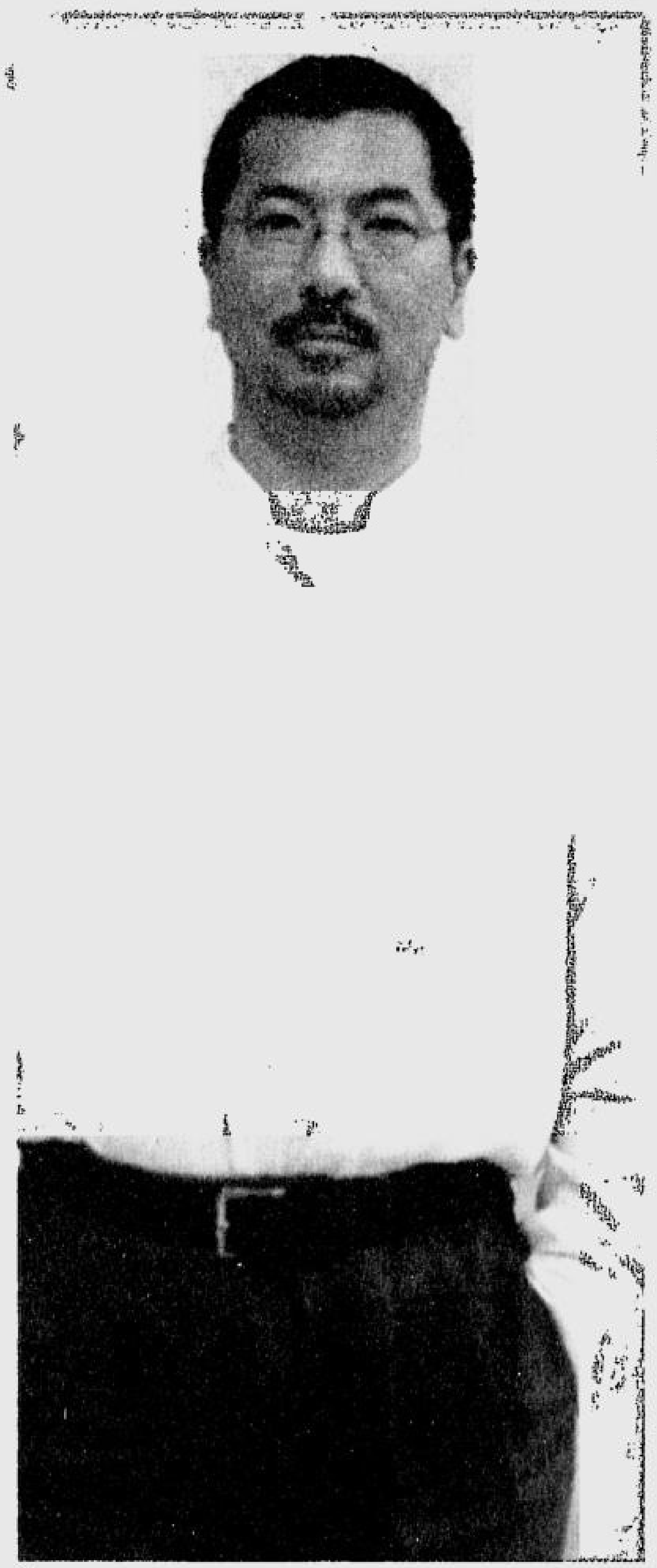
By Cristina Monica L. Buensalido

First Prize, Kabataan Essay in English

My family has done so many great things for me. They may not have chased kidnappers through three cities just to rescue me or given me chests of golden treasures, but these aren't the things that molded me into who I am. They have been good examples and have taught me to do and be more than others. Those little things inspire me to notice the importance and vitality of life. My family does not teach by sitting me down and droning on and on about what life is like and what values I should possess. I have learned about life by just living with them.

Once, my father promised us that we'd eat out, and as we got ready, busily deciding which restaurant to go to, he pulled tables out to the terrace and set the table. When we came downstairs, he grandly led us outside and sat down. We had a good laugh and a good lunch as well. My dad has always wanted us to learn about the value of money, and he showed us how to be creative instead of extravagant. Afterwards, my brothers prepared picnics for their girlfriends instead of taking them out. (Funny, I was the one packing the baskets and looking for romantic candles). Although my dad would occasionally get mad at us for overspending, we're getting better at saving and managing money.

My brothers and I love getting our backs scratched before we go to bed, and we'd beg our mom to do so. At first, she'd complain because she was tired and wanted to watch some TV after working the whole day. She would eventually relent, though, and scratch our backs. It made us feel really good and we would fall into deep, luxurious sleep. Now, I know the importance of having time for family. There are so many things that distract us from family, like television, our cell phones, and work. Some of them are trivial, some of them are very important, but my family makes the extra effort to make time for each other. We have lunch and dinner together most of the time, to talk about what has happened with each of us in the past week. We also watch movies, go to the gym and celebrate mass together, but I like the moments when all of us are lying down on our parents' bed, the five of us crammed there, just talking and laughing.



Jose Maria Manalo

Winning Therapy

For Jose Maria Manalo, bagging First Prize in the Palanca's Screenplay category on his second try was a totally unexpected but welcome surprise.

"I couldn't believe it! I had to read the e-mail three times, and it was midnight so I couldn't call anyone," says the New York City-based veterinarian. "Luckily it was daytime in Manila so I called my sister to tell her."

The win was all the more suprising since Manalo only started writing five years ago, and wasn't even aware of the Palanca contest until a friend told him about it last year.

"I got into writing as therapy," he confesses. "*Mahirap kasi tumira sa* New York. Writing has sustained me all these years—if I had a problem, I could always turn to that."

For Manalo, a UP Veterinary Medicine graduate who has lived in New York for the past 20 years, writing was an offshoot of his interest in films. Five years ago he took some courses in film and writing at the New York University School of Continuing Education. He soon discovered that writing scenes and dialogue came easier for him than writing straight narrative.

He based his winning entry, "*Mangha*" ("Days of Awe"), on a real incident in which a nanny kidnapped her charge. Because New York has a large Jewish population, and numerous Filipinas working as nannies, he made the family Jewish, and the nanny Filipina. The plot pivots around the nanny kidnapping the terminally-ill child in order to bring him to a Filipino faith healer. The title alludes to the ten days of the Jewish holidays, during which a person's destiny can be changed. At the end of the film, all the characters undergo a dramatic transformation.

"I don't know if I can pitch the script to an independent filmmaker or a Filipino producer," says Manalo. "But I will continue to write as I have for years and hopefully finally make a living out of it."

Eric S. Caruncho

Excerpt

From **"Mangha"**

By Jose Maria Manalo

First Prize, Dulang Pampelikula

INT. DR. MILLER'S OFFICE. MORNING

A typical doctor's office.

Kyra is seated, crying her eyes out as Dr. Miller offers her a Kleenex.

KYRA: I'm sorry...

DR MILLER: It's okay, Kyra... Listen, I think you should go home... and be happy...

She nods and stands up. Dr. Miller leads her to the door. The two women hug each other goodbye.

KYRA: Thanks, again, Sue, for everything

DR. MILLER: You're very welcome, and I wish I could have done something and taken the credit for it...

She opens the door to reveal Moses, reading on the waiting room sofa.

DR. MILLER: ... But I think God had a hand at this...

Kyra nods and walks out, pulling Moses with her.

DR. MILLER: I want both of you back in a month...

KYRA: Are you sure he's fine... ?

DR. MILLER: For now... we'll retest him in a month...

The little boy turns to the doctor.

MOSES: See you around, Dr. Miller...

DR. MILLER: Yes, see you around...

The mother and son walk out of the office.

INT. MIRIAM'S BEDROOM. MORNING

Miriam wakes up feeling nauseated. She sits up and runs to the bathroom, a hand on her mouth.

INT. MIRIAM'S BATHROOM. MORNING.

Miriam kneels in front of the toilet and retches as she cradles her stomach. She suddenly feels different. She looks down as she strokes her abdomen. Aldo enters the bedroom and rushes to his wife's aid. he kneels by her.

ALDO: O... anong nangyari...

She turns and just smiles at him.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK. MORNING

Miriam and Moses, with a head full of hair, are on their way to the park, hand in hand walking away from the camera. They join Grace and Precy in their usual corner of the playground. Moses runs off and Miriam turns to sit on the bench and she is obviously very pregnant. Life goes on as her voice-over fills the scene.

MIRIAM:
(voice-over)
Sabi sa Talmud, ang kanilang
bibliya ng pamumuhay, na ang
lahat ng tao ay galing lamang
sa iisang buhay... kaya't ang
pagsagip ng isang buhay, ay ang
pagsagip sa buong mundo...

Addict Mobile Feeds your Hunger for UAAP Basketball

FEU's Multi-talented Arwind Santos

DLSU's Captain Hook: Mac Cardona

UP's Robson Bornancin aims for the hoop

The rivalry continues! Ateneo's Larry Fonacier guards La Salle's Joseph Yeo

"It is basketball at it's purest." That is the statement often made regarding college basketball. These kids play all out with untainted passion, all for simple love of the game. Perhaps no other league symbolizes this fanatical school spirit than the University Athletics Association of the Philippines (UAAP). In its 66th season, the UAAP continues to pack all stadiums where the teams clash. There is little doubt that the UAAP is the hottest ticket in town today.

As the players fight for basketball supremacy, a few players now proudly wear the colors of that dynamic brand known as Addict Mobile.

The now-ubiquitous "i" logo of Addict Mobile can be seen as headbands and wristbands on the league's brightest stars.

National University has the "King Bulldog" in crafty point guard Froilan Baguion. **University of the East** is led by Paul Ariadi together with the sweet-shooting James Yap. **Far Eastern University** has a quartet of Tamaraws wearing Addict Mobile apparel. Led by team captain Gerard Jones, fellow FEU stalwarts Mark Isip, Dennis Miranda, and MVP-favorite Arwind Santos bring their brand of power basketball to the Addict Mobile fold.

The **University of the Philippines** Fighting Maroons now features Brazilian swingman Robson Bornancin and promising center/forward JayR Reyes. Seeking redemption after missing the chance to win five straight UAAP titles last year, the **De La Salle** Green Archers now lean on the daredevil drives of Joseph "The Ninja" Yeo, "Captain Hook" Mac Cardona, with spitfire TY Tang in charge of the Archers' attack.

After making it to the Final Four of last year's tournament, the **University of Santo Tomas** has bruising Alwin Espiritu and versatile Christian Luanzon as go-to guys.

As for the defending champions from Loyola Heights, the **Ateneo de Manila** Blue Eagles have a fantastic foursome leading the way in 2003. Two-time MVP Rich Alvarez continues to rebound and block shots for the champs, even as Wesley Gonzales and clutch-performing Larry Fonacier provide a double-barreled threat from the wings with LA Tenorio as the sparkplug behind the Ateneo attack.

With an easy to access Addict Mobile menu featuring the UAAP, the pulse-pounding hardcourt action is now accessible on your celfone. As the hippest brand to hit the market today, there's little doubt why the hottest UAAP stars have joined the Addict Mobile family. With news, updates, and MMS images galore, you can rest assured that your basketball addictions will truly be filled to the brim, courtesy of Addict Mobile.

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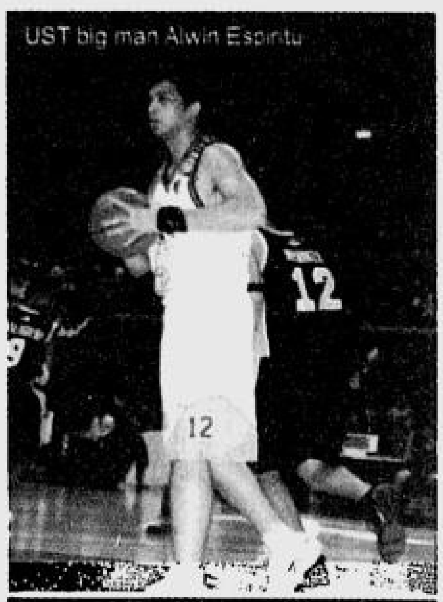
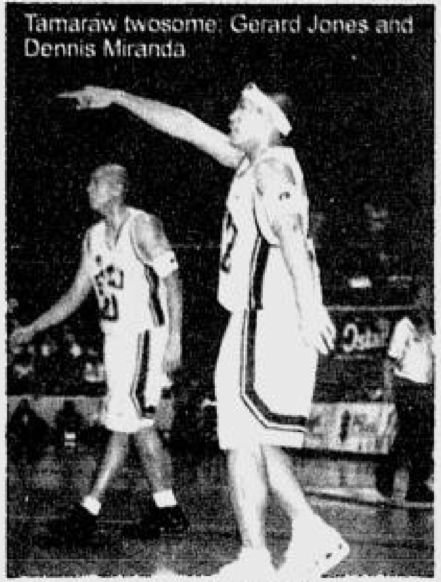
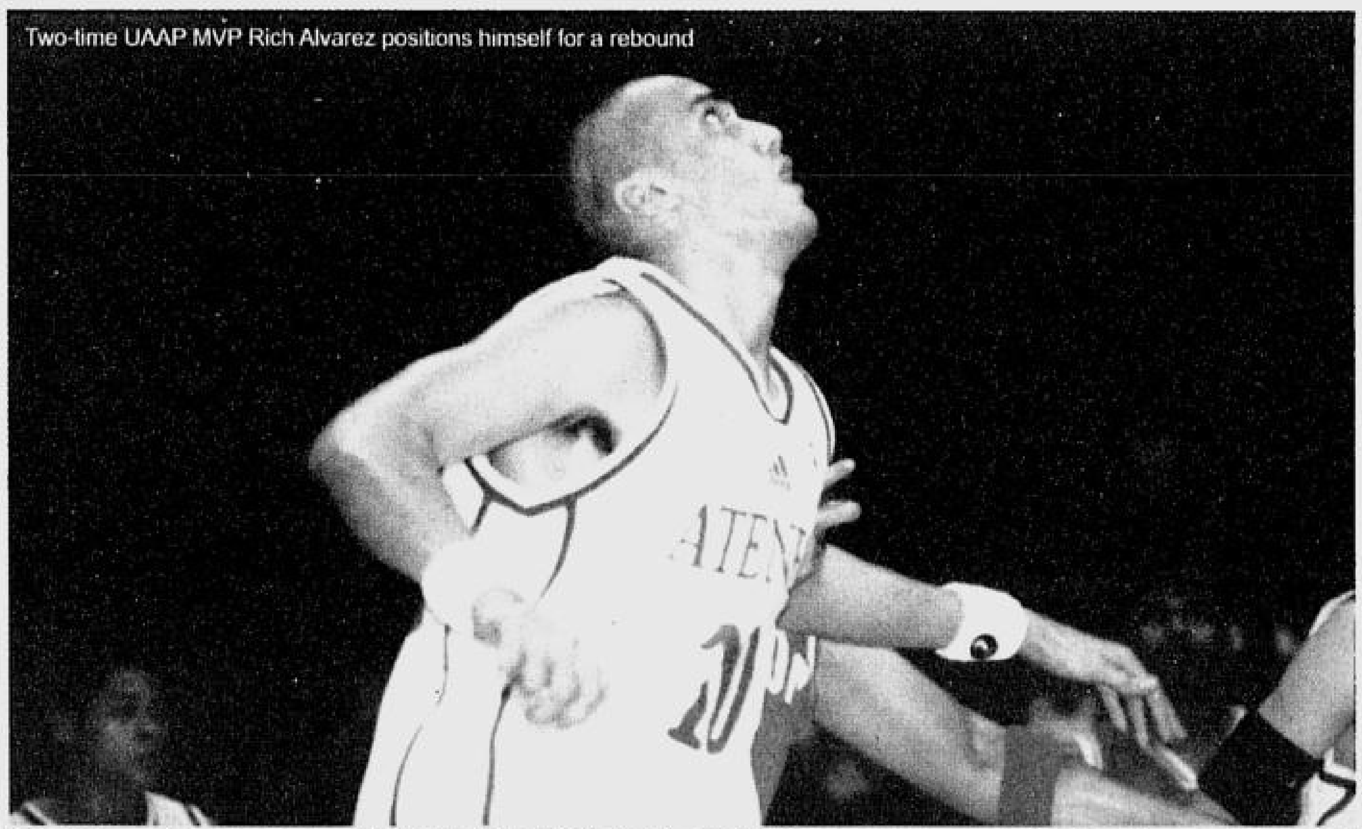
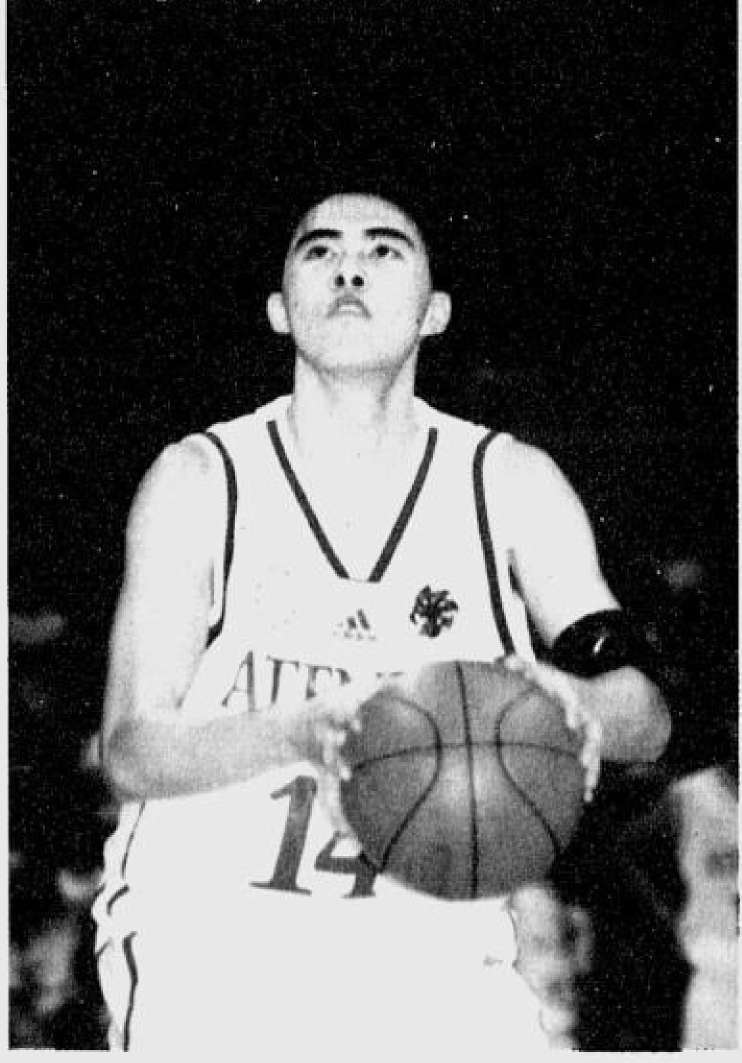

UST big man Alwin Espiritu

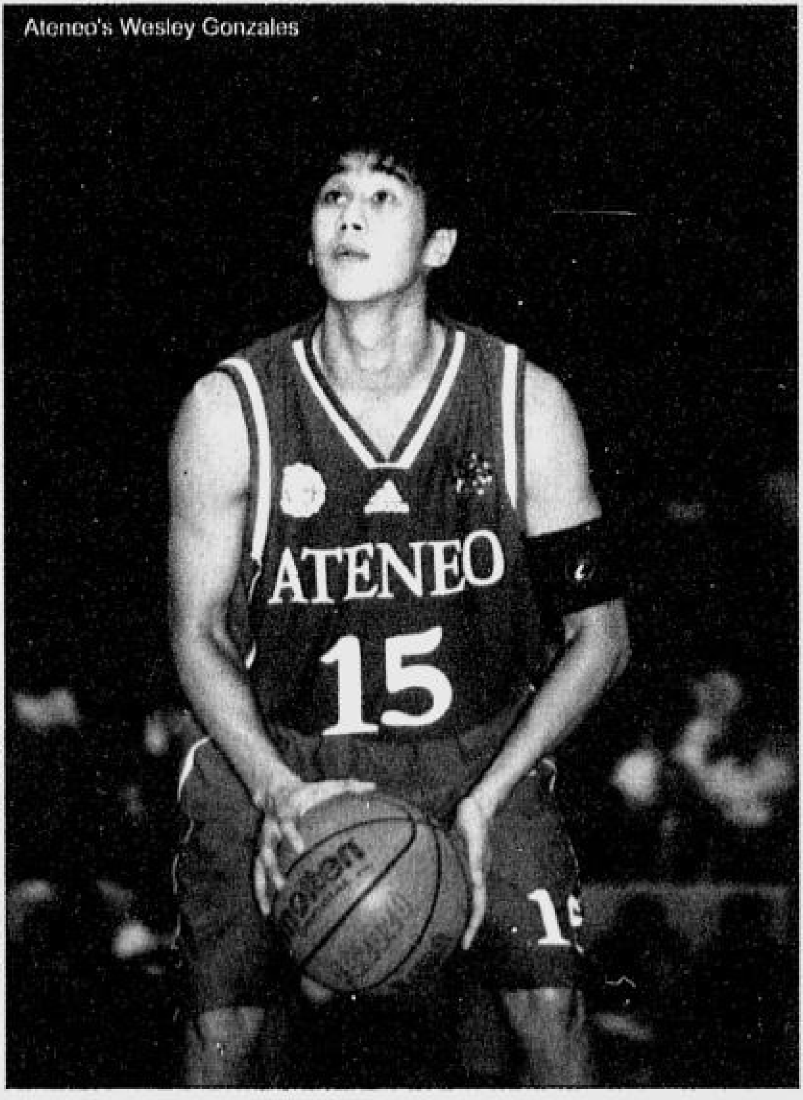
Hot-shooting James Yap of UE


Tamaraw twosome: Gerard Jones and Dennis Miranda


Two-time UAAP MVP Rich Alvarez positions himself for a rebound

NU's court general, Froilan Baguion


The Blue Eagles' Larry Fonacier shoots a free throw


Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales

UE's Paul Artadi leads the Warriors' attack

ADVT.

Isidoro M. Cruz

An Ilonggo at Heart

"There's a myth that if you don't have a Palanca award, you're just a wannabe," says teacher and writer Isidoro M. Cruz, who won first prize this year for poetry in English—not his first Palanca, but his first time to win the top prize.

"I think that myth has been ingrained in all of us, although in truth, a Palanca isn't necessary for writing, just for the writer's ego."

A teacher of literature and information and publications officer at the University of San Agustin, Cruz is currently finishing his dissertation on Western Visayan literature for his Ph.D. in Literature at De La Salle University.

Although he is not Ilonggo, having been born and raised in Manila, the oral epic tradition of Iloilo has a special resonance for Cruz, who lived there for eleven years. The centerpiece of his prize-winning collection of poems is a long poem titled *"Tarangban,"* which uses the Ilonggo epic *"Hinilaw-od"*—as transcribed by F. Landa Jocano from the chanting of a *babaylan*—as springboard.

"I look at the piece as material from which I can build a contemporary poem," says Cruz. "I have no emotional attachment to the tradition because I'm a Manileño. I'm partly an outsider but I also have an Ilonggo consciousness."

The romantic notion of being a "poet" and practicing the "sullen art" is not what drives Cruz to write. In fact, he considers himself a teacher first, a poet second.

"I write a poem maybe once a month," he says. "I don't think I'm capable of writing a poem in a single day. I spend two to three days writing a draft, and one to two weeks revising. The poem reads very easily, but it has taken me a lot of work."

"Writing is an exploration," he adds. "I begin writing a line of poetry not knowing fully well what abstract subject to write about. Quite often, I get to be sure of where the material is leading me only as soon as I get there. I get to know what I am looking for the moment I find it.

"For me, a poem shares a strange affinity with a joke," he continues. "Both are able to make convincing connections between seemingly incongruous things. Both tear down our defenses and command our full and uninterrupted attention. Moreover, both a poem and a joke make us say them again and again or listen to them again and again in our heads. He who keeps a joke all to himself will burst to death. That is probably why I write and let others read and listen to my poetry."

Eric S. Caruncho

Excerpt

From **"Bodies of Water"**
By Isidoro M. Cruz
First Prize, Poetry in English

A Key Collector
Talks to His Bride

It's a family affliction,
I tell her, this hunger for keys.

This was the key to our forefather's chest.
In the middle of his sleep.
his small barren wife opened it
to find herself there.

Devastated, she commanded the servant girl
to lock her in and hurl the key into the deep.

In the morning, the village implored the sea
to yield the key to the hundred divers.

"A curse upon the seed in your other garden,"
the servant recounted to her master
who, from then on, would spend his life
looking for the keys.

He couldn't pry the metal chest open;
in terror he rummaged for other keys.
(He had felt its dead weight upon waking.)

Family legend says he buried his chest in the sea,
at the spot where the fisherman said
he had ferried the servant past midnight.

I drop the key back into the fishbowl, wondering
if its finder caught sight of the chest as well.

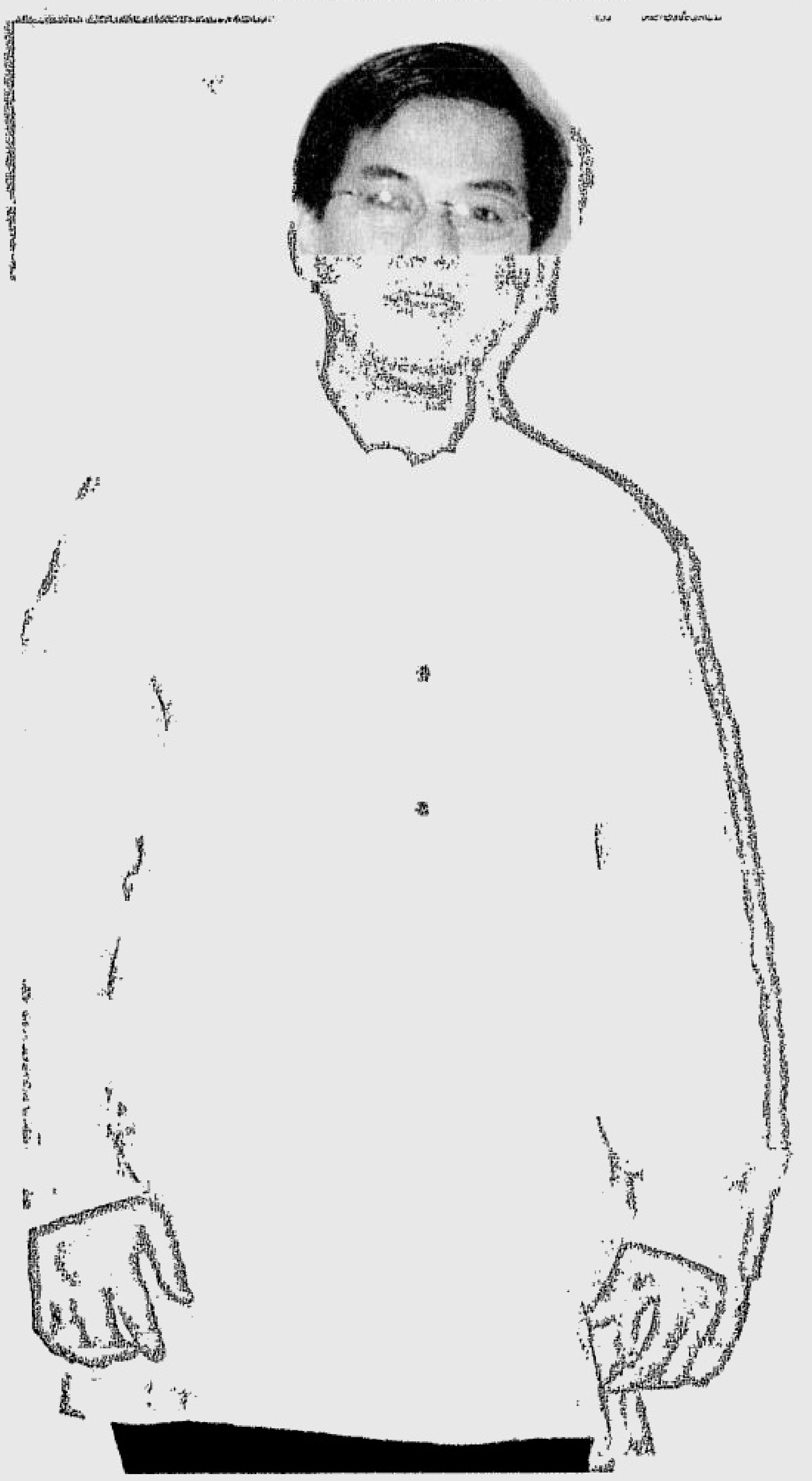
"This other one belonged to my late father," I begin to say,
and my wife-to-be stifles a laugh.

"You don't believe me," I grumble.
"I do," she says, "I do," surveying the other keys.

She opens her bag and takes out the key
to her apartment. "Tell me the story behind this,"
she says, and we laugh so loud
I forget what else I've wanted to tell her.

Renato C. Vibiesca

For Kids Only



RENATO "Nats" Vibiesca is still waiting to be able to read his own stories to his children. "They're still too young," he says. Vibiesca, 33, has been immersed in writing for children as he is the supervisor for layout at the Communication Foundation for Asia, which publishes *Pambata* Magazine, among others. Vibiesca has been writing for children since 1991 and got his first Palanca in 1996 when he won First Prize for Short Story for Children. This being his second Palanca, he's going two-for-two as far as First Prizes are concerned. "This win is an affirmation and it's an even better experience," he says.

Vibiesca, who took up Philosophy at San Beda College, writes mostly for children because he realizes he "has a specialized skill for it." He draws his ideas mostly from his experience and, while it takes him a long time to concretize his ideas, he doesn't take long to put them in writing. His winning story, "Tahooieyy!," took only two weeks to finish. And while his children are so far uninvolved with Vibiesca's writing process, he has taken small steps in that direction. "I'm already starting to read stories to them."

Ruel S. De Vera

Excerpt

From **"Tahooieyy!"**
By Renato C. Vibiesca
First Prize, Short Story for Children in Filipino

Parang walang tao sa paligid. Walang pumansin sa tinda namin. Pinakinggan ko ang paligid. May humuhuning ibon. May eroplanong lumilipad sa napakataas na himpapawid at lumilikha ng sobrang taas na Do ang tono. Narinig ko rin ang kampana ng simbahan sa ikatlong kanto na kumakalembang ng napakagandang Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do. Napakasarap pakinggan ang mga nagsasayawang nota sa kalsada. Ito na ang tamang pagkakataon. Pinakawalan ko ang isang napakalakas na:

"Ta-ho, ta-ho, ta-ho… tahoooelyy!"

Biglang nagtinginan ang mga bata sa pinanggalingan ng sigaw. Para silang nakakita ng artista. Nagulat si kuya sapagkat ang lahat ay nakatingin sa amin. Sa pangalawang sigaw ko ay naglapitan na ang mga bata. May magic daw ang aking sigaw, sabi ni kuya.

Kaboses na kaboses ko daw si tatay. Paulit-ulit na pinasisigaw ako ng taho at sabay maghahalakhakan ang mga bata't matatanda. Napakarami palang suki ni tatay. Hindi lamang mga bata, maging mga matatanda. Pati pala mga pulis, guwardiya at barangay tanod ay nagtataho sa umaga bago pumasok sa kanilang trabaho. Taho daw ang nagpapasigla sa panimula ng kanilang hanapbuhay at ang sigaw ni tatay ang nagpapasaya ng kanilang buhay.

2003 Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature

Complete List of Winners

FILIPINO DIVISION

I. KABATAAN SANAYSAY

(Walang Panalo)

II. FUTURISTIC FICTION-FILIPINO

Unang Gantimpala: "Bagong Developments sa Pagbuo ng Mito ng Lungsod" ni Ricardo P. Fernando III

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Project: Eyod" ni Edgar C. Samar

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "Nostalgia" ni Alvin B. Yapan

III. MAIKLING KUWENTO

Unang Gantimpala: "Apong Simon" ni Reynaldo A. Duque

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Bomba" ni Alvin B. Yapan

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "Supay" ni Abdon M. Balde, Jr.

III. MAIKLING KUWENTONG PAMBATA

Unang Gantimpala: "Tahooieyy!" ni Renato C. Vibiesca

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Bayong ng Kuting" ni Mae Astrid Tobias

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "Hayan na si Lolo Sinto" ni Alice S. Mallari

IV. SANAYSAY

Unang Gantimpala: "Kung Tawagin Siya'y Angela Buruka: Sa Alaala ni Angela Manalang-Gloria" ni Niles Jordan Breis

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Adventures sa Kawatanan ng Rentas Internas" ni Mjolnir Xoce V. Ong

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "Maikling Talambuhay ng Isang Makatang Ipinaglihi sa Paa ng Manok at Sirena" ni John Iremil E. Teodoro

V. TULA

Unang Gantimpala: "Ang Magneto sa Gitna ng Aking Daigdig" ni Alwynn C. Javier

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Nostos at Iba pang Awit ng Pagtubos" ni Raymund Magno Garlitos

Ikatlong Gantimpala—: "Ilang Pagsasanay sa Pangungulila" ni Jing Castro Panganiban

VI. DULANG MAY ISANG YUGTO

Unang Gantimpala: "Traje De Boda" ni Maria Kristine Chynna B. Roxas

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Twenty Questions" ni Christian R. Vallez

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "I Laugh You" ni Nathaniel Joseph De Mesa

VII. DULANG GANAP ANG HABA

Unang Gantimpala: Walang Panalo

Ikalawang Gantimpala: Walang Panalo

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "Trese: Isang Panayam" ni Mari Jina David Andaya

VIII. DULANG PANTELEBISYON

Unang Gantimpala: "Kasama sa Bahay" ni Lazaro P. Torres, Jr.

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Ang Buhay Kong Duling" ni Rolando S. Salvaña

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "Ay Em Nene" ni Nita Eden So

IX. DULANG PAMPELIKULA

Unang Gantimpala: "Mangha" ni Jose Maria Manalo

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "ICU Bed #7" ni Rica Leticia Ilagan Arevalo

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "Kung Paano Ko Inayos ang Buhok Ko Matapos ang Mahaba-haba ring Paglalakbay" ni Norman Wilwayco

ENGLISH DIVISION

I. KABATAAN ESSAY-ENGLISH

First Prize: "Learning to Fly" by Cristina Monica L. Buensalido

Second Prize: "Why I am Who I am" by Florianne Marie L. Jimenez

Third Prize: "Contemplating the Concept of Sanctuary" by Enrique Miguel T. Subido

II. FUTURISTIC FICTION-ENGLISH

First Prize: No Winner

Second Prize: No Winner

Third Prize: "Sidhi" by Yvette Natalie Uy Tan

III. SHORT STORY

First Prize: "Doreen's Story" by Rosario C. Lucero

Second Prize: "The Hero of the Snore Tango" by Ian Rosales Casocot

Third Prize: "Closed Doors" by Maria Francesca Theresa C. Kwe

IV. SHORT STORY FOR CHILDREN

First Prize: "The Greediest of Rajahs and the Whitest of Clouds" by Honoel A. Ibardolaza

Second Prize: "Behind the Old Aparador" by Cyan Abad-Jugo

Third Prize: "Kulog" by Yvette Natalie Uy Tan

V. ESSAY

First Prize: "The Music of Pestle-on-Mortar" by Rosario C. Lucero

Second Prize: "Videoke Blues" by Lourd Ernest De Veyra

Third Prize: "Licking Lollies: The Re-education of an Accidental American" by Xerxes Matza

VI. POETRY

First Prize: "Bodies of Water" by Isodoro M. Cruz

Second Prize: "Exploratoria" by Angelo V. Suarez

Third Prize: "Tornadoes and Other Poems" by Mike Maniquiz

VII. ONE-ACT PLAY

First Prize: No Winner

Second Prize: "The Onan Circle" by Dean Francis Alfar

Third Prize: "The Birth of Flight" by Glenn Sevilla Mas

VII. FULL-LENGTH PLAY

First Prize: No Winner

Second Prize: "Fluid" by Floy C. Quintos

Third Prize: "The Adventures of Pilandok" by Frank G. Rivera

I. MAIKLING KUWENTO-CEBUANO

Unang Gantimpala: "Pagbugto sa Kataposang Higot" ni Mario C. Batausa

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Tinggutom sa Nayawak" ni Lamberto G. Ceballos

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "Tikbalangkapre" ni Arnel M. Mardoquio

II. MAIKLING KUWENTO-HILIGAYNON

Unang Gantimpala : "Esperanza" ni Alice Tan Gonzales

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Haligi Nga Asin" ni Lester Mark P. Carnaje

Ikatlong Gantimpala : "Mga Misteryo sa Kagulangan" ni Isabel D. Sebullen

III. MAIKLING KUWENTO-ILUKO

Unang Gantimpala: "Leon, 15" ni Reynaldo A. Duque

Ikalawang Gantimpala: "Sudario" ni Ariel S. Tabag

Ikatlong Gantimpala: "No Tallikudan Dagiti Tugot" ni Clariot Garcia De Francia

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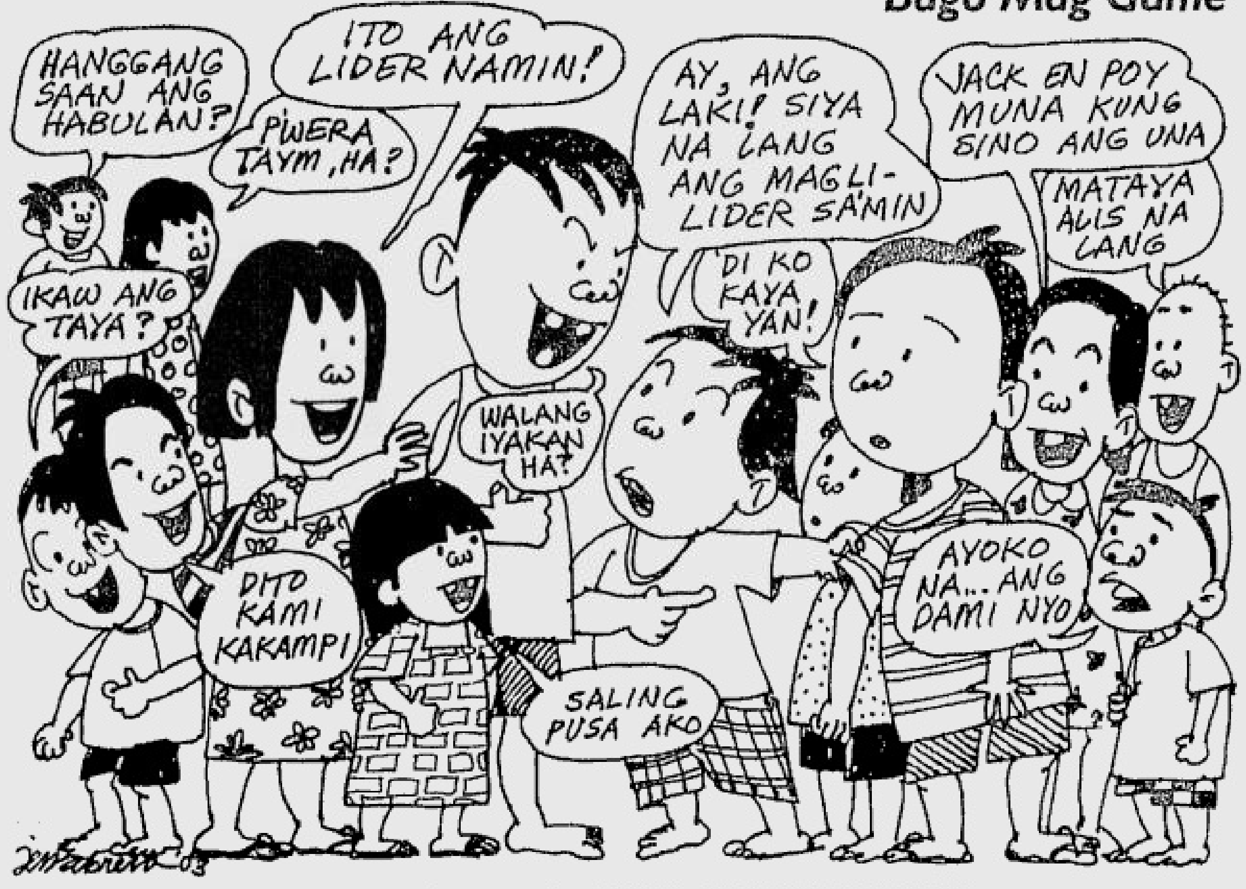
Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Bago Mag Game



This Week

Art

"Familiarity Breeds," an exhibit by Juan Alcazaren is on view until September 7 at the SM Megamall Art Center. For more information, call the gallery at 634-2410/634-2411.

"Handog," an exhibition of artworks by Napoleon V. Abueva, Aladin S. Antiqueno, Angelo Baldemor, Araceli Limcaco Dans, Joven Ignacio, Azor Pazcoguin, Tito Sanchez and Janice Young is on view until September 18 at Art Space Level 3, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. The exhibit is for the benefit of CRIBS Philippines, Inc.

"Handog," **an exhibit by Aladin S. Antiqueño and other artists at Art Space**

"TOUCHED: Black and White Photographs," first solo exhibit by Eloi M. P. Hernandez is on view until September 9 at the Faculty Center Galeria 1, University of the Philippines Diliman.

InterContinental Manila holds an art exhibit entitled **"Praise"** until September 14 at the lobby Art Café. The exhibit features a collection of bronze sculptures of Franciscan saints and etchings in terra cotta tiles of biblical scenes by Indonesian artist Teguh Ostenrik. All artworks are for sale. Part of the exhibit's proceeds will be earmarked for the hotel's community projects. For inquiries, call 815-9711.

Winning artworks of the **2003 Metrobank Foundation Young Painters' Annual National Painting Competition** are on view at the lobby of the Metrobank Plaza in Makati until September 30. The exhibit also showcases artworks of all the finalists in the two categories and some selected entries.

Music

On September 12, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra honors the passion and genius of Sergei Rachmaninoff in **"An Evening of Rachmaninoff,"** presented in cooperation with the Russian Embassy at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. The concert marks the 60th death anniversary of Rachmaninoff, one of the greatest composers, conductors and performers of all time. The concert will feature Russian pianist Sergey Koudriakov with soprano Rica Nepomuceno, tenor Nolyn Cabahug, bass Lawrence Jatayna and Chorus Philippines. For more information, call the CCP Marketing Dept at 551-7930/832-3878.

Cinema

pelikula@titusbrandsma features "Pola X" by Leos Carax, Francois Ozon's short works and Catherine Breillat's "Romance X" on September 13 at 1 p.m. at the Titus Brandsma Center, 24 Acacia Drive, Cubao, QC. For inquiries, call Jofti at 726-7763 or Maxie at 751-1169.

Onstage

"Last Five Years," an award-winning musical which stars Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Audie Gemora will be staged on September 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. and September 14 at 3:30 p.m. at the RCBC Theatre, Ayala corner Buendia, Makati. Tickets are available at Ticketworld. For inquiries, call 891-5610.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Turning 21

The idea is for each of us to offer part of ourselves in the preparation of the chicken soup—a symbolic gift for the nourishment of the many poor and hungry souls outside our gates

It's another coming out party for the Center for Migrant Youth as it celebrates its 21st year and hosts a Chicken Soup Party for the Soul.

The Center For Migrant Youth (CMY) will turn 21 on September 18. We'll gather our friends, benefactors and "alumni" on that day, Thursday, for Holy Eucharist at 4 p.m. to be followed by a Chicken Soup Agape for the Soul.

Wouldn't it be fun if we asked you to donate:

- 21 chicken pieces (available in economy size plastic packs at your favorite market)

- and/or 21 pieces of essential ingredients enough to create several bowls of heaven-cooked chicken soup for the soul. (Ingredients might include cabbage, celery, garlic, onions, ginger, *kinchay*. Ask your mother).

We at CMY will provide the 21 other things like the rice, the condiments and the cooking itself.

The idea is for each of us to offer part of ourselves in the preparation of the chicken soup—a symbolic gift for the nourishment of the many poor and hungry souls outside our gates—again, a poetic image of you, dear friends of CMY, patiently nourishing, nurturing, and sustaining the CMY ministry to displaced and endangered migrant and street youths, (21 of them at any given time for the past 21 years).

Whatever is left of the 21 chicken pieces, the 21 soup ingredients and the 21 other things that you may intend to offer to celebrate the 21st birthday of CMY with us, will be used for our weekend feeding of street mendicants in our neighborhood and for the sustenance, formal education and values-formation of the youth under our care.

We need your chicken pieces and soup ingredients as early as September 15 for obvious reasons. Our address is: Center For Migrant Youth, 103 Cordillera St., Quezon City. For details, please call Joe Ladip at 0917-8912959, Angge Soriano at 374-2170 or Tina Bonifacio at 0918-9385065.

Come to our anniversary party, and try our chicken soup (your soup!) for your soul.

***

My books, "My Crazy Dream" and "Hello, Jubilee!" contain the history and spirituality of the Center For Migrant Youth. Published by the Claretian Communications, the books will be made available on September 18 and 21 at CMY on Cordillera Street during its 21st anniversary. Please help me sustain my outreach to the poorest among the youth by promoting my books. Call Claretian Communications at 921-3984. See you on September 18.

***

In the early '90s when His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal L. Sin, in his early 60s, was still the "roly-poly, jolly good fellow" we knew, I was writing my first book, "A Clown Among Many." Cardinal Jaime L. Sin: Our Clown and Friend was the third reflection (Chapter 1, page 9) about the "clowns for Christ." Read: "If I were a part of an audience in a circus, Cardinal Sin, for me, would be the lion-tamer (or the magician or the trapeze artist)..."

"As the lion-tamer, the trapeze artist and the expert, Cardinal Sin is my hero. But as the clown, the Cardinal is my friend...

"We have seen people laughing at him, and we have heard others belittle, ridicule and vilify him. But the clown manages to hide a tear behind a smile, and to walk straight even with a broken leg - just to make us enjoy the show. He allows us to see in him no longer the Cardinal, Prince of the Church nor His excellency, the Archbishop but someone dear to us and close to us because, like Jesus of Nazareth, like the Clown, he is very much like us in all things - except the name SIN.

"So from one clown to another: Happy Silver, Your Eminence, Cardinal Jaime L. Sin - our clown, our friend."

Epilogue

But now, after his 75th birthday and no longer the "roly-poly, jolly good fellow" we knew, but one who is wheelchair-bound and in pain. Jaime Cardinal L. Sin still manages to strike a pose, one that images Christ Suffering which, to him, is the same as Christ Glorified—Our Beloved Clown and Friend.

***

Tomorrow, September 8, is the birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and our mother too.

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SMART
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MANILA SMART MMS SINGAPORE
SMART
We miss you dude! How's Singapore?
MANILA SMART MMS HONGKONG
SMART
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